TALES FROM THE CRYPT

pdc

JULY
1968
35¢

WELCOME TO THE OLD CRONE'S CRYPT!

IN THIS ISSUE

HORROR HARBOR

•

FOREVER DEAD!

•

SKELETON IN THE CLOSET!

PLUS OTHER WEIRD SHOCKING TALES FROM BEYOND TIME.

BACK!-BACK TO YOUR GRAVES...YOU SLIMEY GHOULS! I'VE SOMETHING TO SAY TO OUR READERS! THERE ARE MANY UNEXPLAINED HAPPENINGS... FOR INSTANCE, DID YOU KNOW...
-IF
YOU TAKE A TOOTH FROM A SKULL, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE A TOOTHACHE ....YOU DONT BELIEVE IT? A HEX ON YOU!
-IF
A PORTRAIT FALLS FROM THE WALL THAT PERSON WILL DIE WITHIN A MONTH! ... WHAT'S THAT? IT CANT HAPPEN TO YOU BECAUSE YOUR NAME IS DRACULA.
-IF
A DEAD PERSON IS CARRIED ABOARD A SHIP,--DISASTER WILL OVERTAKE THE BOAT! ...IN THE MOVIES, IT'S ALWAYS A DRUNKEN CAPTAIN!?

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

CONTENTS FOR JULY 1968 Vol. 1 No. 10

A SKELETON IN THE CLOSET 4

Can a skeleton come back to life? . . . Lee Talbot found out the hard way . . . The price was high but, what value has money to a dead man? . . . Hmm?

EXPERIMENT IN TERROR 11

A masterpiece designed to shrink the flesh on your bones and make them rattle! We dare you to read this one — Go!

BLOOD AND OLD BONES 18

A thief sought refuge in a rotting old mansion and to his horror found slavering jaws waiting! . . . Ugh! . . .

FOREVER DEAD 26

There is no escape from a vile, fleshless thing that crawled from the open grave . . . A tale to hold you spellbound . . .

HORROR HARBOR 46

Out of the sea they came, dreadful, slow-moving, slime-covered things in search of vengence . . . Look out they'll grab you!

***Plus* other horror tales that probe from beyond our world!**

Mel Lenny, Publisher
Carl Burgos, Editor . . . Irving Fass, Art Director

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LEE TALBOT HAD A FORMULA THAT MIGHT HAVE BROUGHT HIM $1,000,000 -- BUT HE ALSO HAD---

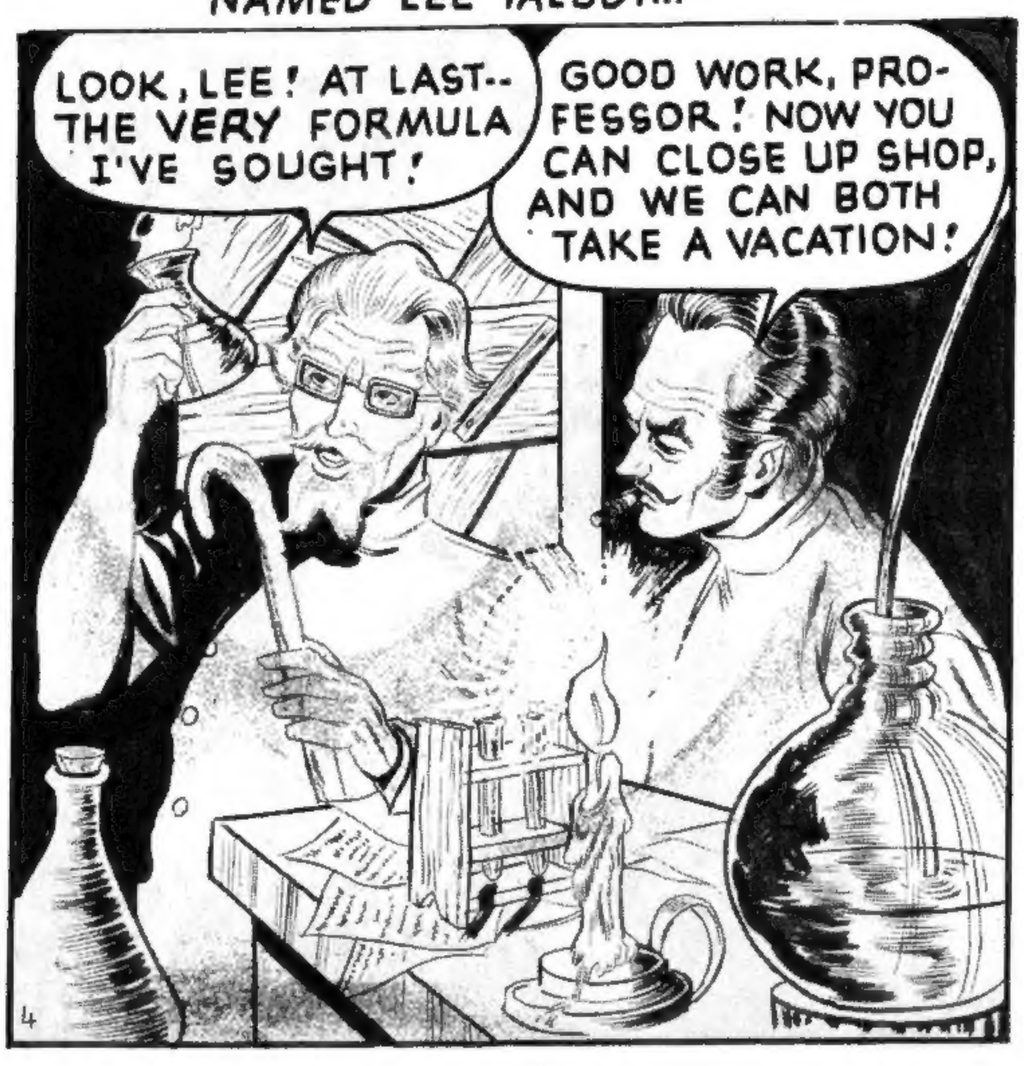
A SKELETON in the Closet

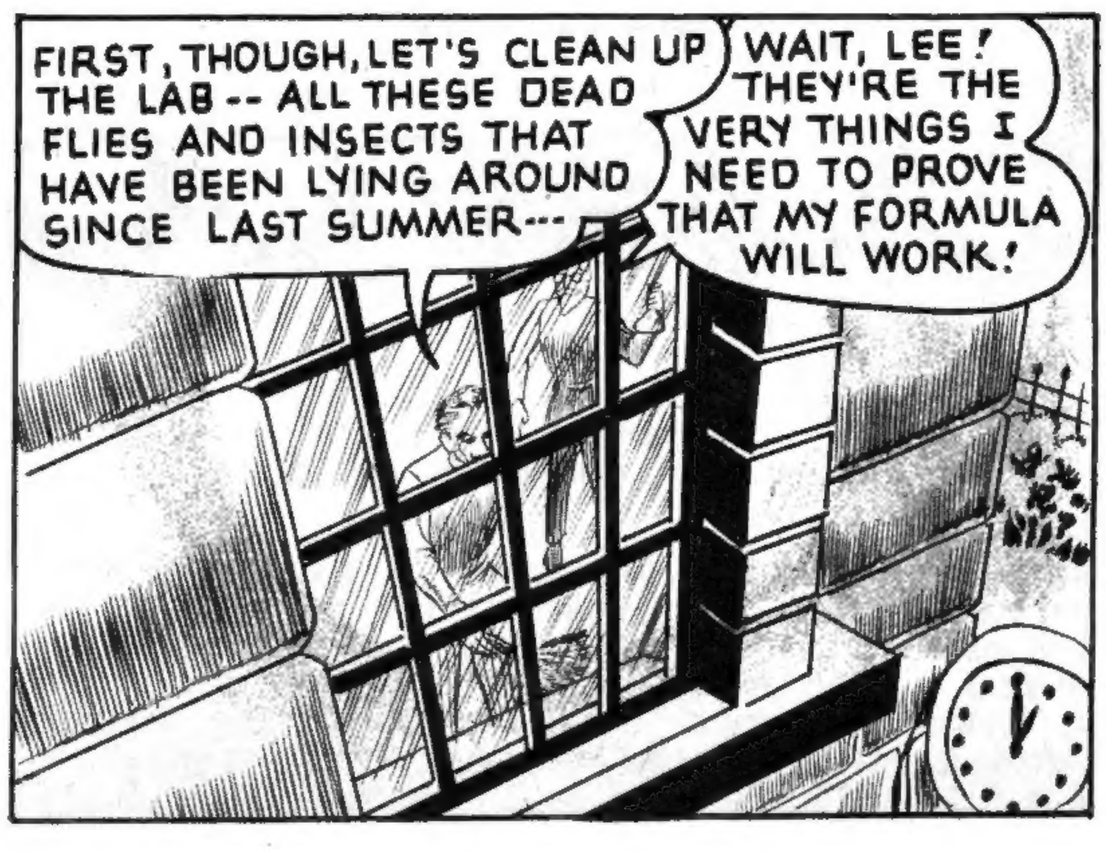
PRESS

MEMO FROM RALPH BAIRD... GHOST WRITER... YES, I WAS A WRITER WHO "GHOSTED" STORIES FOR OTHER PEOPLE... AND NOW I'M CONTINUING MY CAREER FROM THE BEYOND! HERE IS THE SPINE-TINGLING TALE OF A FELLOW GHOST, PROFESSOR SPARTACUS DUBROW---

IT WORKS! THE FORMULA IS PERFECT! THE SECRET OF VRIL IS MINE! PROF. DUBROW SHOULD BE HERE TO SEE THIS *IN THE FLESH!* HEHEHEHEHEH!

FOR YEARS, PROF. DUBROW HAD BEEN RUNNING THE VITREX RESEARCH FOUNDATION WITH ONLY ONE ASSISTANT, A TECHNICIAN NAMED LEE TALBOT...





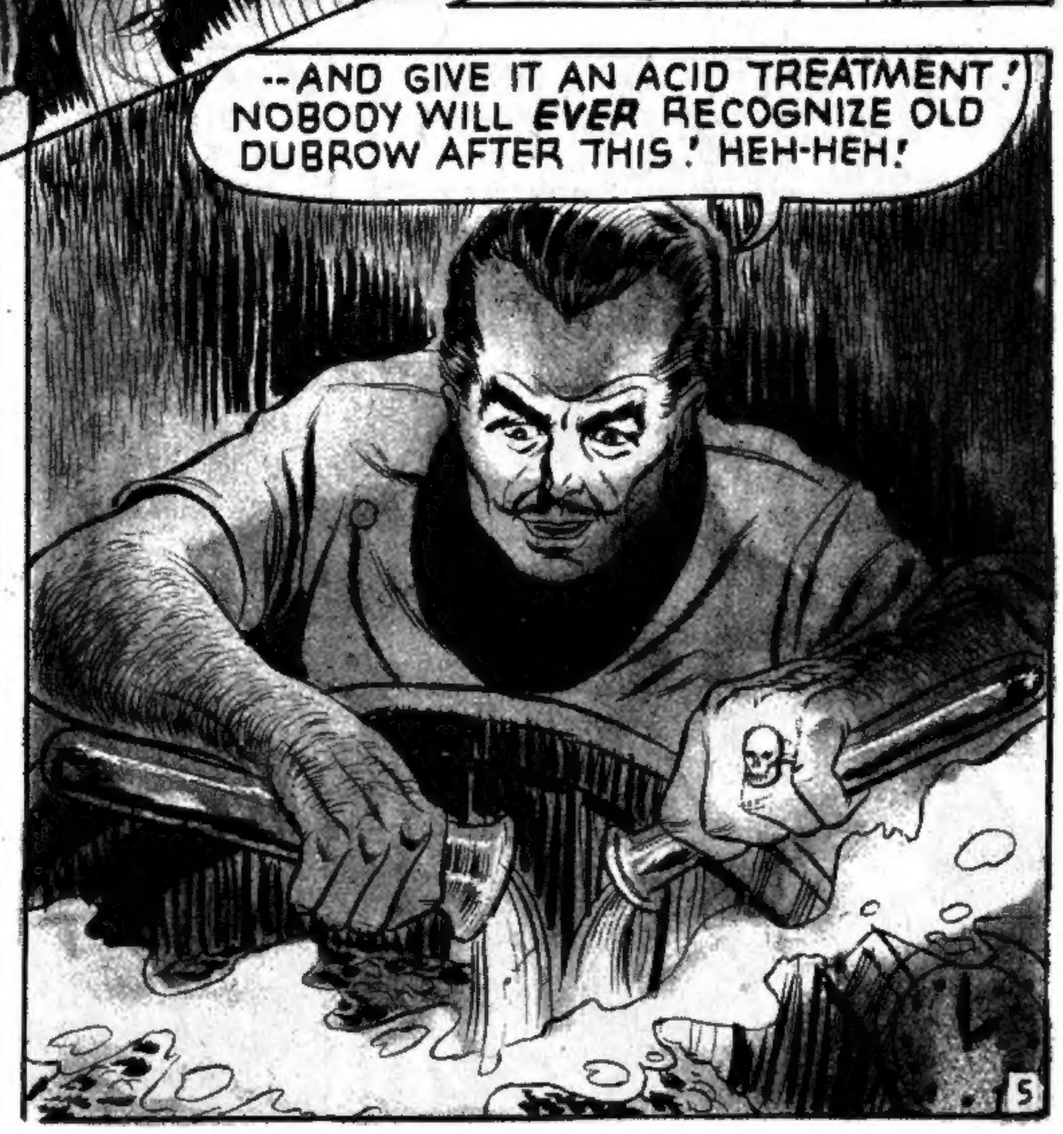
YOU THOUGHT I WAS WORKING ON A FORMULA THAT WOULD PROLONG LIFE FOR PERHAPS A FEW YEARS---

BUT INSTEAD, I WAS DEVELOPING AN ELIXIR TO RESTORE LIFE! WATCH!

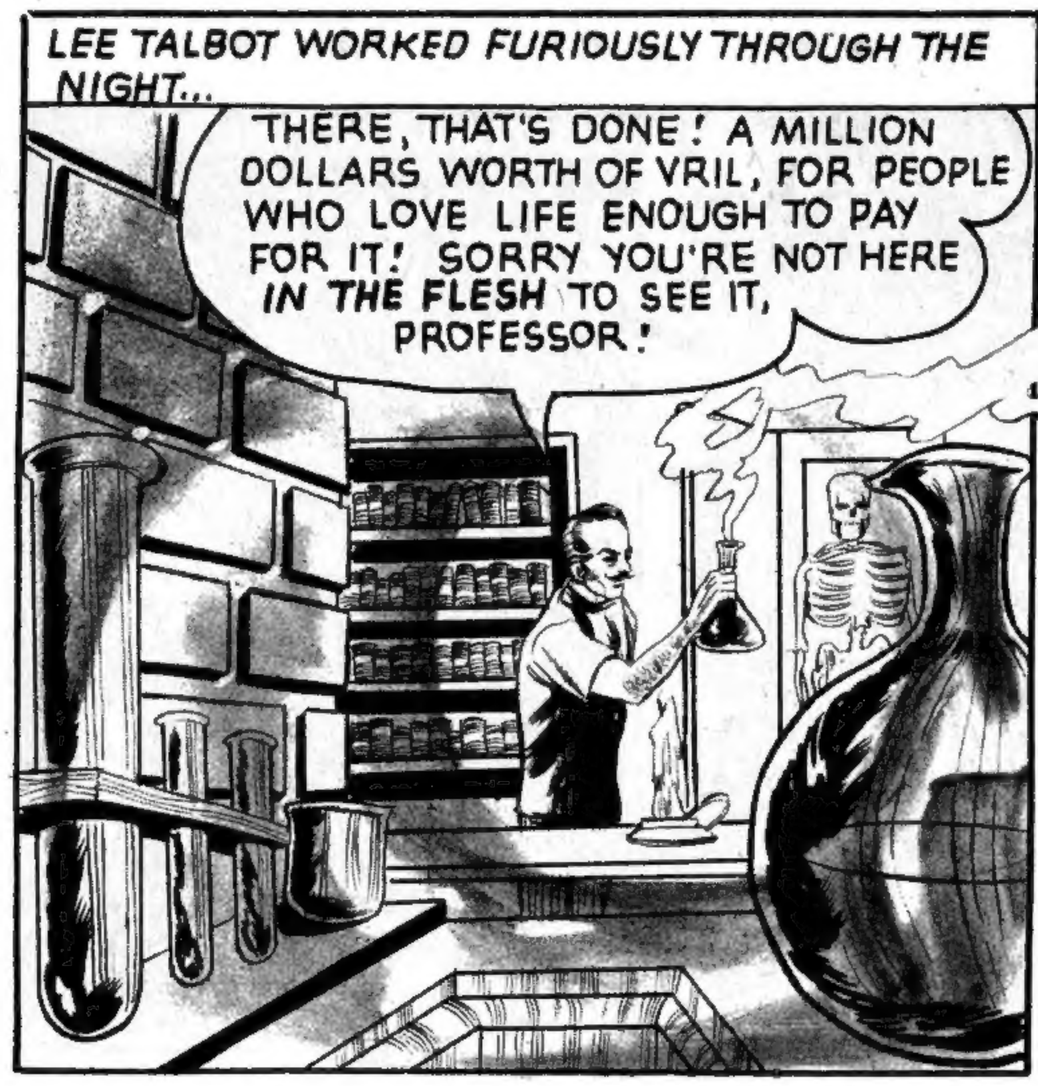
THERE IS THE LIVING PROOF OF IT!

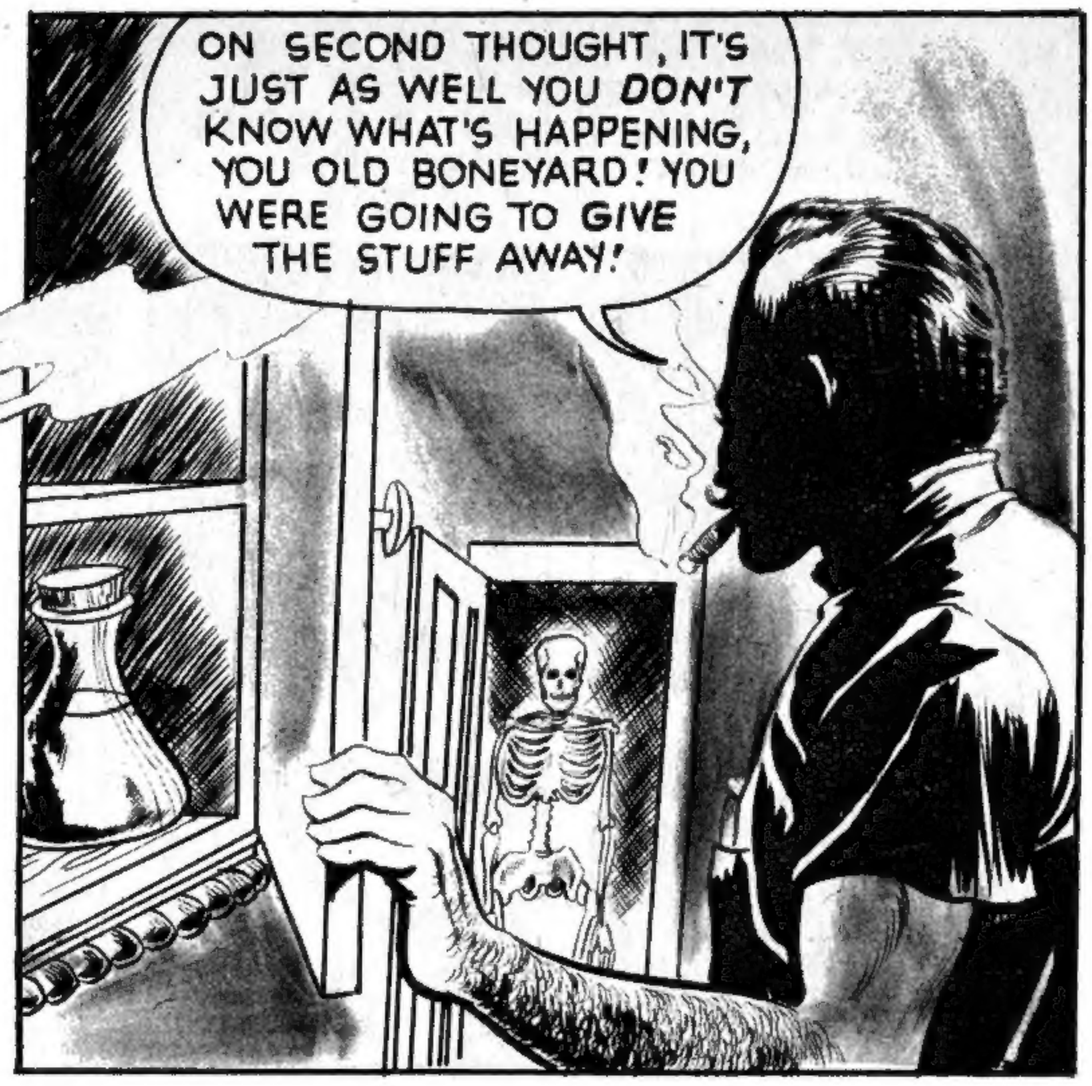
AS OLD PROF. DUBROW HOBBLED BACK TO HIS WORK BENCH, AN EVIL SCHEME FLASHED THROUGH LEE'S WARPED MIND...
AND WHEN DUBROW LAID HIS CANE ASIDE...
THERE'S A FORTUNE IN IT IF I CAN GET RID OF THE OLD MAN!
THESE NOTES CONTAIN MY FULL FORMULA -- THE GREATEST BOON EVER OFFERED TO MANKIND!

THAT ONE CLOUT REALLY FINISHED HIM! NOW I'LL DUMP THE BODY IN OUR CHEMICAL VAT---


--AND GIVE IT AN ACID TREATMENT! NOBODY WILL EVER RECOGNIZE OLD DUBROW AFTER THIS! HEH-HEH!

BY THE NEXT DAY, LEE TALBOT HAD GONE THROUGH ALL OF DUBROW'S EFFECTS...
SOME POST CARDS THE PROFESSOR ADDRESSED BUT NEVER MAILED, THE LAST TIME HE TOOK A VACATION! I'LL GO TO THOSE PLACES AND MAIL THE CARDS MYSELF! THAT WILL FOOL PEOPLE!
BUT FIRST I'D BETTER GATHER UP WHAT THE ACID LEFT OF PROF. DUBROW---
-- AND PUT IT IN THIS CLOSET THAT THE PROFESSOR ALWAYS KEPT LOCKED! I CAN SAY IT'S BEEN AROUND FOR YEARS -- WHICH IT HAS! HEH!
AS FOR THE CLUB I USED, I'LL STICK IT HERE IN THE YARD---
THEN POUR WHAT'S LEFT OF THE VRIL INTO THIS SPRAY GUN---
AND GIVE THE CANE A FULL-FLEDGED TREATMENT!
SD
SO LEE TALBOT MADE A QUICK TRIP, MAILED THE POST CARDS, AND RETURNED...
OH-OH! THE BUSH IS DROOPY! LUCKY I STILL HAVE SOME VRIL IN THE SPRAY GUN!
WHAT'S THE TROUBLE, MR. TALBOT? ROSE BUGS?
THAT'S RIGHT, HERVEY! ROSE BUGS!
BY THE WAY, CAN YOU STOP AROUND TOMORROW AND CLEAN THE PLACE UP BEFORE PROF. DUBROW RETURNS?
SURE THING, MR. TALBOT!
D
L


LEE TALBOT WORKED FURIOUSLY THROUGH THE NIGHT...
THERE, THAT'S DONE! A MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF VRIL, FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE LIFE ENOUGH TO PAY FOR IT! SORRY YOU'RE NOT HERE IN THE FLESH TO SEE IT, PROFESSOR!


ON SECOND THOUGHT, IT'S JUST AS WELL YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING, YOU OLD BONEYARD! YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE THE STUFF AWAY!

I'D BETTER LOCK YOU AWAY UNTIL HERVEY GETS HERE!

WHICH REMINDS ME, I'D BETTER FRESHEN UP OUR ROSE BUSH! WE SHOULD KEEP OUR LITTLE SECRETS, SHOULDN'T WE?

THE PROFESSOR'S FRIENDS SHOULD BE GETTING THOSE POST CARDS BY NOW! THEY'LL NEVER GUESS WHERE OR WHEN HE DISAPPEARED-- OR HOW!

SO ALL WAS SERENE AND THE PERFECT CRIME WAS WORKING TO PERFECTION, WHEN HERVEY ARRIVED FOR CLEAN-UP DUTY...
HELLO, HERVEY! THIS PLACE HASN'T BEEN CLEANED FOR MONTHS, SO YOU'VE A BIG JOB AHEAD OF YOU! I'LL UNLOCK THE CLOSET, SO YOU CAN CLEAN IN THERE, TOO!

A-- A SKELETON! YOWW!
DON'T LET IT SCARE YOU! PROF. DUBROW USED IT IN HIS EXPERIMENTS! SEE YOU LATER, HERVEY!

AS HERVEY STARTED WORK, A LONE BUTTERFLY BUZZED PAST HIS NOSE...
SO THE JANITOR GRABBED THE SPRAY GUN THAT WAS LYING HANDY...
BUT AS HE TRIED TO KILL THE BUTTERFLY, OTHER INSECTS CAME TO LIFE...
AND THE MORE HERVEY SPRAYED, THE THICKER THEY BECAME, UNTIL...
THEY'RE EVEN GETTING IN THE CLOSET! I'D BETTER CLEAN THEM OUT OF THERE--THAT'S FOR SURE!
HELLO, HERVEY--DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
THE--THE SKELETON--IT'S COME TO LIFE!
OF COURSE I'VE COME TO LIFE, HERVEY--THANKS TO YOU! I'M PROF. DUBROW! I WANT YOU TO HELP ME EVEN SCORES WITH THE MAN WHO MURDERED ME!
SURE--SURE THING, PROFESSOR!
IN THAT DRAWER, HERVEY, YOU WILL FIND A LOADED REVOLVER!
NOT IF I GET THERE FIRST, HE WON'T!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK, HERVEY--JUST LIKE THE PROFESSOR WAS!
GRAB HIM, HERVEY, OR HE'LL KILL YOU!

TOO LATE, HERVEY!
YOUR GAME IS UP, LEE! YOU KILLED HERVEY, WHO WAS ALIVE, BUT YOU CAN'T KILL ME!
-- BECAUSE I AM ALREADY DEAD! HEHHH!
I CAN SHOOT YOU INTO CHUNKS, YOU HUMAN BONEYARD, AND BURY YOU PIECEMEAL---

BEFORE LEE TALBOT COULD CARRY OUT HIS THREAT, A SKELETON HAND CAUGHT HIS WRIST, SENDING HIS SHOTS WILD...
ONE BULLET DRILLED THE CABINET WHERE LEE HAD STORED THE VRIL, AND AS THEY STRUGGLED, THE PRECIOUS ELIXIR TRICKLED AWAY

WHY, YOU RATTLEBONES, I'LL CHOKE YOU-- AND CHOKE YOU---
TOO BAD; LEE--

-- BUT CHOKING CAN'T HURT ME! I NO LONGER HAVE A WINDPIPE -- BUT YOU DO---

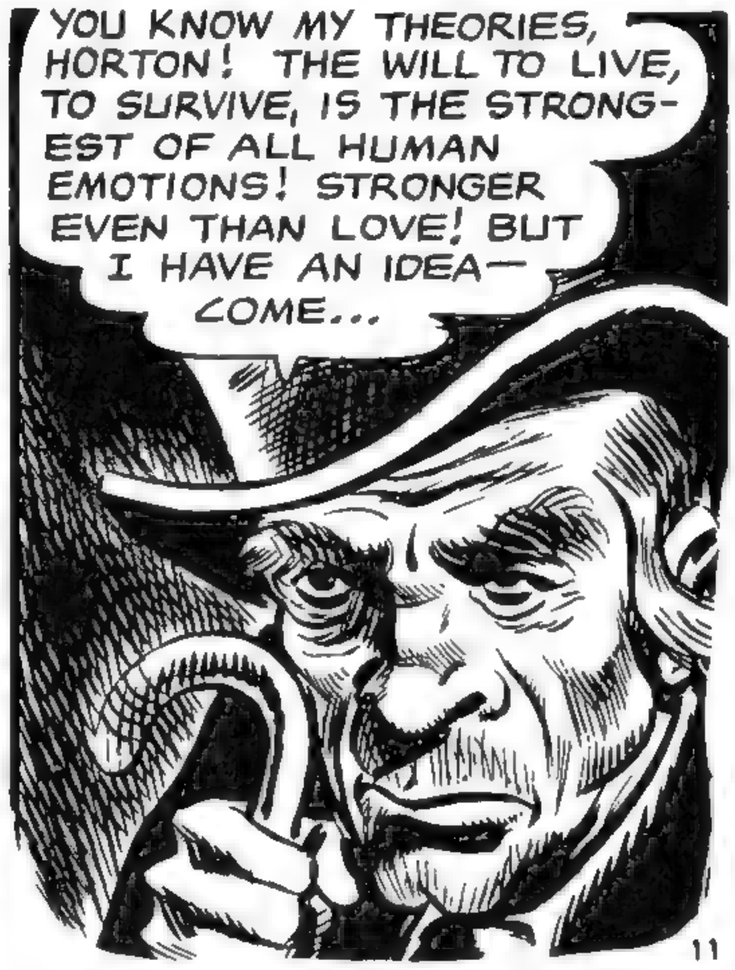
SO IT'S MY TURN NOW, TO DELIVER DEATH, BEFORE THE EFFECT OF THE VRIL WEARS OFF!

GRADUALLY, BUT SURELY, LEE TALBOT SUCCUMBED TO THE GRIP OF THOSE BONY FINGERS...
THE VRIL-- IT'S ALL LEAKED AWAY-- BUT MY FORMULA IS HERE!
I' MUST MAKE MORE-- BEFORE MY TEMPORARY STRENGTH IS--IS--GONE---
BEFORE THE SKELETON HAND COULD ADD THE FINAL INGREDIENT, ITS STRENGTH GAVE OUT... AS HOURS PASSED, THE REMNANTS OF THE PRICELESS ELIXIR BOILED AWAY, WHILE THE BONES OF ITS INVENTOR LAY MOTIONLESS UPON THE FLOOR... DAYS FOLLOWED, AND FINALLY MEN CAME TO THE SILENT LABORATORY, TO FIND A STRANGE SCENE...
APPARENTLY HERVEY WAS CHOKING TALBOT TO DEATH WHEN LEE MANAGED TO SHOOT HIM! BUT IT WAS TOO LATE FOR LEE TO SAVE HIS OWN LIFE!
BUT WHY SHOULD THEY HAVE BEEN FIGHTING OVER A SKELETON?
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE-- BUT NEITHER DOES THIS BATCH OF PAPERS! MIGHT AS WELL TOSS THEM IN THE STOVE!
I WONDER WHERE PROF. DUBROW WENT-- AND WHY HE LEFT HIS CANE STUCK HERE IN THE GROUND?
IT BEATS ME, TOO!
LIKE THAT YARN... HMM? -- I KNOW WHERE PROF. DUBROW WENT... DO YOU? ... WE BOTH KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN THE LAB, THOUGH-- YOUR GHOST WRITER--THAT'S ME!-- GOT THE INSIDE STORY!
PRES
the End

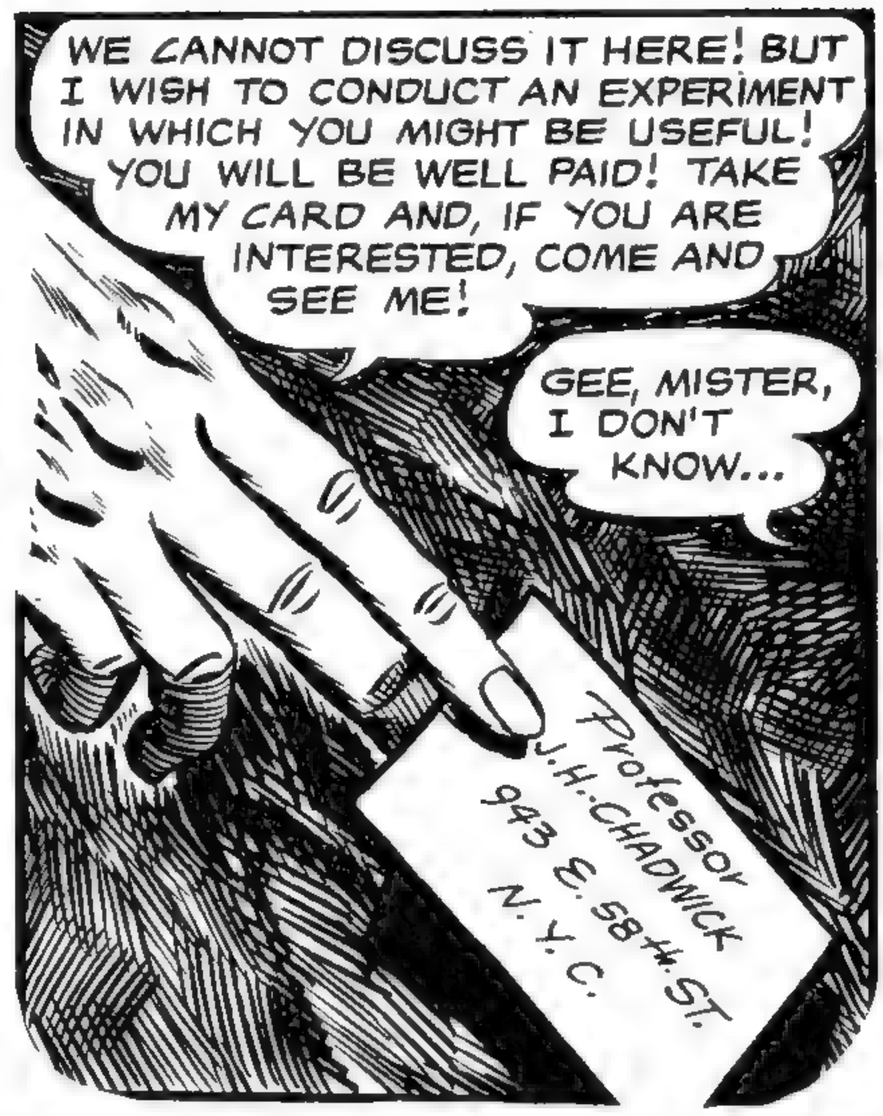
HOLD ON THERE,---- NO USE TRYING TO GET AWAY! WHEN YOU BOUGHT THIS MAGAZINE, YOU WERE LOOKING FOR THRILLS, RIGHT? YOU WANTED 35 CENTS WORTH OF TERROR— BUT WE—(CHUCKLE)—ARE GOING TO GIVE YOU A LOT MORE THAN **THAT!** HO-HO—YES, INDEED! WHEN YOU'VE READ THIS LITTLE MASTERPIECE, YOUR FLESH WILL SHRINK ON YOUR QUIVERING BONES AND YOUR BLOOD WILL CURDLE INTO ICE! **SHHH**—DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT **HE** IS STANDING BEHIND YOU, COME TO TAKE YOU TO **THE HUMAN ZOO...**

EXPERIMENT in TERROR

TWO DISTINGUISHED MEN OF SCIENCE WALK IN CENTRAL PARK...



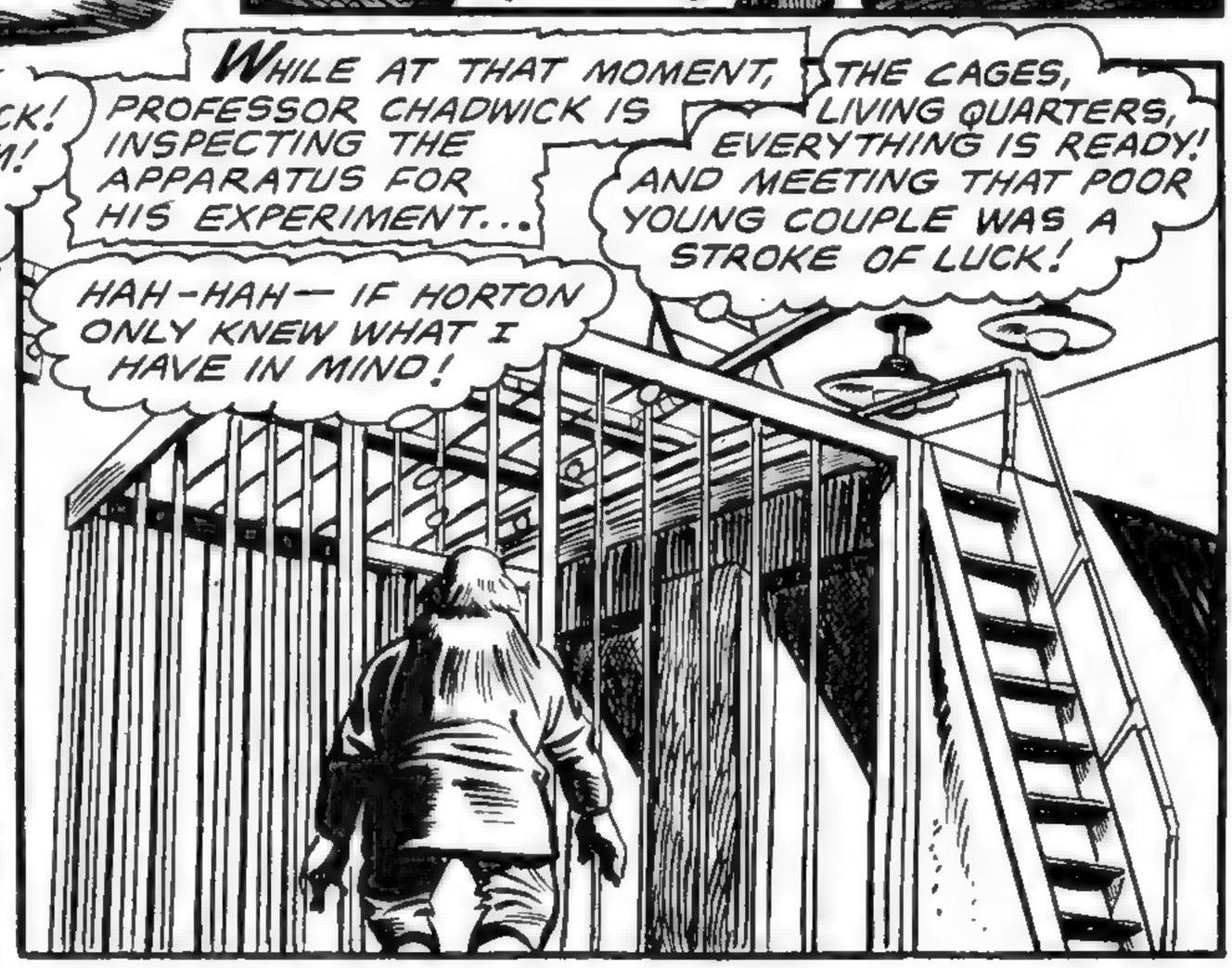
SO... EXCUSE ME, YOUNG PEOPLE! I AM PROFESSOR CHADWICK, AN ANTHROPOLOGIST! NO DOUBT YOU COULD USE SOME MONEY? TO GET MARRIED, PERHAPS!
B-BUT WHO...
WHAT'S YOUR GAME, OLD MAN?


WE CANNOT DISCUSS IT HERE! BUT I WISH TO CONDUCT AN EXPERIMENT IN WHICH YOU MIGHT BE USEFUL! YOU WILL BE WELL PAID! TAKE MY CARD AND, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, COME AND SEE ME!
GEE, MISTER, I DON'T KNOW...
Professor J.H. CHADWICK 943 E. 58th ST. N.Y.C.

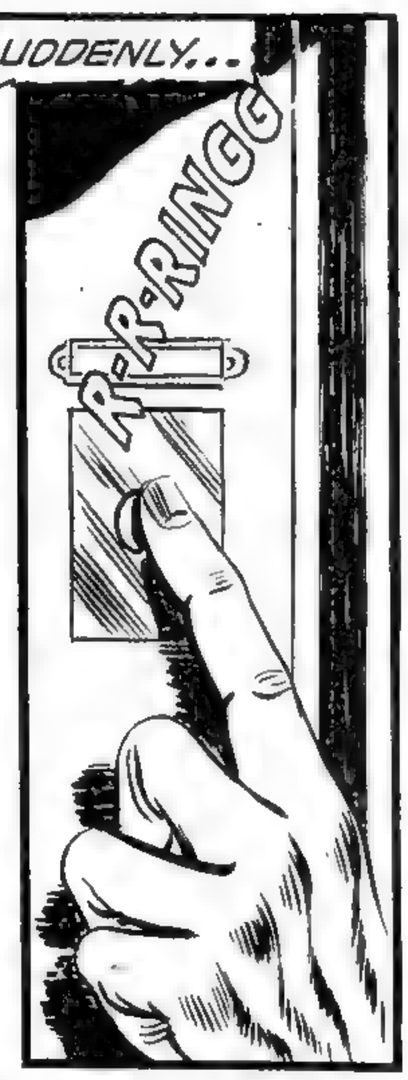
LATER...
THEY'LL SHOW UP, HORTON! YOU'LL SEE! THEN I'LL PROVE TO YOU THAT LOVE IS ALL A LOT OF EYE-WASH!
I DON'T AGREE WITH YOU AT ALL, BUT I'LL CONFESS I'M INTERESTED! JUST HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO GO ABOUT THIS EXPERIMENT?

BUT PROFESSOR CHADWICK ISN'T TALKING...
GOOD-NIGHT, CHADWICK! SORRY YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT IT! BUT I'LL KEEP IN TOUCH!
BAH— YOU'RE AS MUCH A FOOL AS THE REST OF THEM! BUT I'LL SHOW YOU I'M RIGHT! I'LL SHOW THE WORLD! LOVE! HAH-HAH!

A QUEER LITTLE DUCK, CHADWICK! I FEEL TERRIBLY SORRY FOR HIM! BUT HE'S BITTER, HATES LOVE AND LOVERS BECAUSE HE IS HIMSELF SO GROTESQUE AND DEFORMED! SOMETIMES I WONDER IF HE'S QUITE SANE!

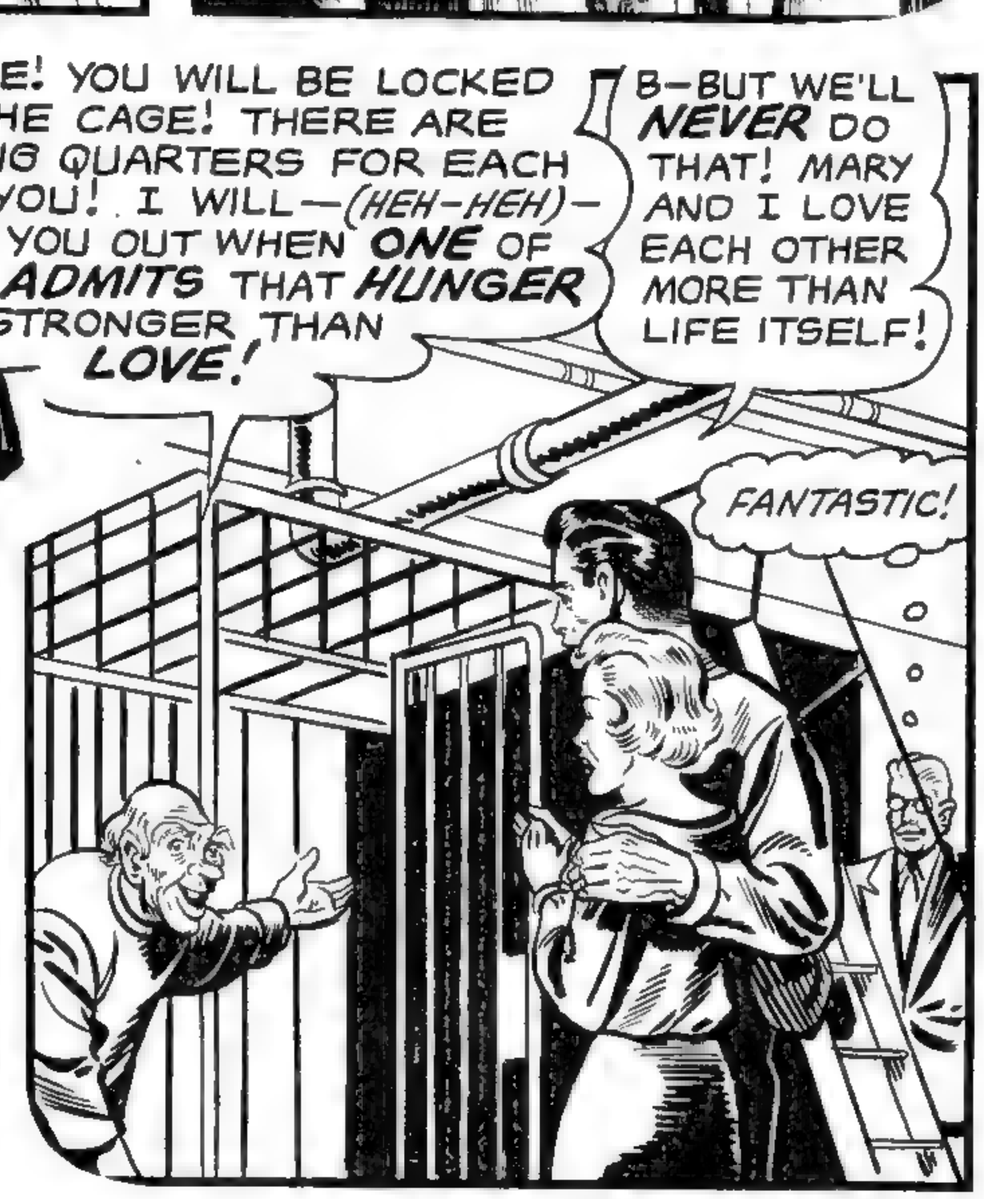

WHILE AT THAT MOMENT, PROFESSOR CHADWICK IS INSPECTING THE APPARATUS FOR HIS EXPERIMENT...
THE CAGES, LIVING QUARTERS, EVERYTHING IS READY! AND MEETING THAT POOR YOUNG COUPLE WAS A STROKE OF LUCK!
HAH-HAH— IF HORTON ONLY KNEW WHAT I HAVE IN MIND!

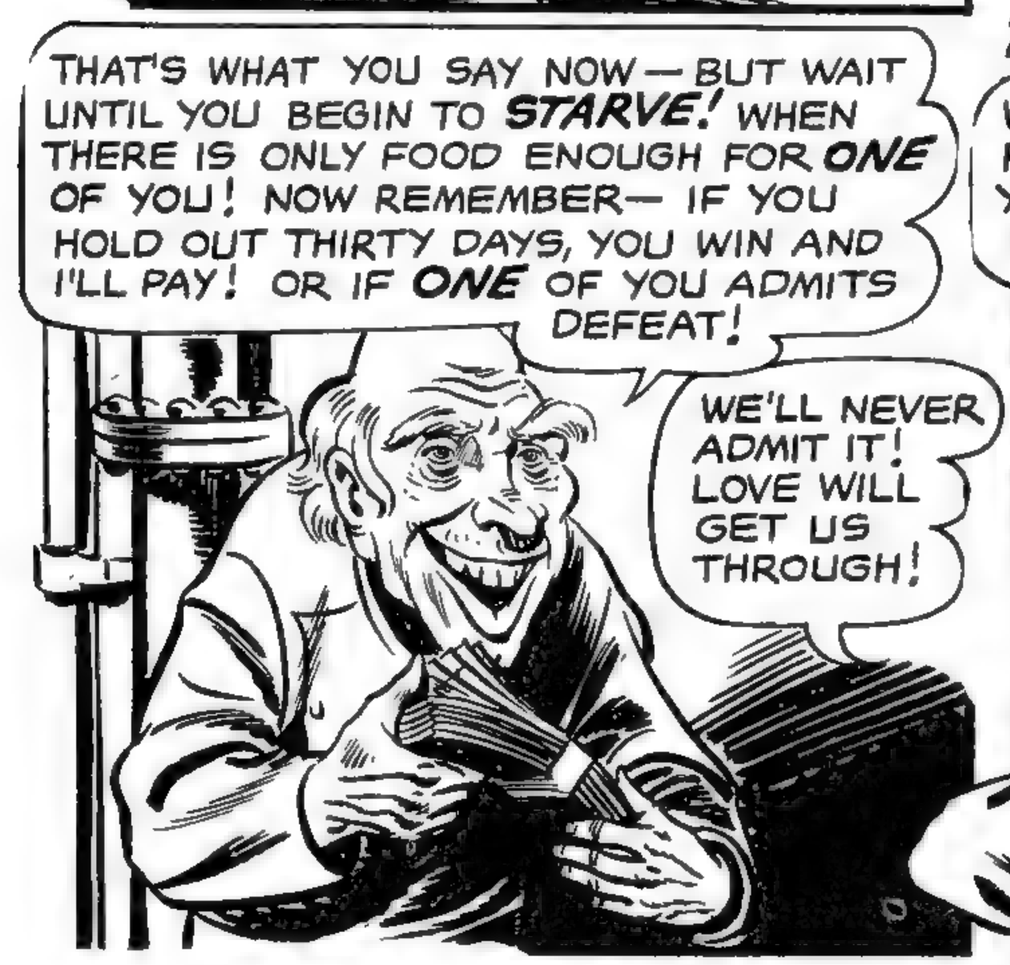
A FEW NIGHTS LATER...
LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL HAVE TO POSTPONE YOUR LITTLE EXPERIMENT, CHADWICK! YOUR SUBJECTS HAVEN'T SHOWN UP!
THEY WILL! I FEEL SURE OF IT!


SUDDENLY...
R-R-RINGG

AND...
HMM— CHADWICK WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL!
AH, GOOD EVENING, MY DEARS! COME IN — COME IN!
W—WE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU, SIR! ABOUT YOUR OFFER!

AN AGREEMENT IS SOON REACHED...
JUST COME WITH ME! I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE YOU'RE TO LIVE DURING THE— (CHUCKLE)— EXPERIMENT!
S-SURE!


THERE! YOU WILL BE LOCKED IN THE CAGE! THERE ARE LIVING QUARTERS FOR EACH OF YOU! I WILL—(HEH-HEH)— LET YOU OUT WHEN ONE OF YOU ADMITS THAT HUNGER IS STRONGER THAN LOVE!
B—BUT WE'LL NEVER DO THAT! MARY AND I LOVE EACH OTHER MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF!
FANTASTIC!


THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY NOW — BUT WAIT UNTIL YOU BEGIN TO STARVE! WHEN THERE IS ONLY FOOD ENOUGH FOR ONE OF YOU! NOW REMEMBER— IF YOU HOLD OUT THIRTY DAYS, YOU WIN AND I'LL PAY! OR IF ONE OF YOU ADMITS DEFEAT!
WE'LL NEVER ADMIT IT! LOVE WILL GET US THROUGH!

THE CAGE IS LOCKED...
WE'LL FOOL YOU, PROFESSOR! YOU'LL SEE!
YES — WE WON'T TURN AGAINST EACH OTHER!
BRAVE TALK, BUT TIME WILL TELL! IT'S UP TO YOU TO CONVINCE ME!

NEXT DAY...
TODAY WE REALLY START THE EXPERIMENT! FROM NOW ON YOUR FOOD WILL GRADUALLY BE CUT DOWN! STILL WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH IT?
YES! WE NEED THAT MONEY TO FURNISH A HOUSE!
YOU CAN'T FRIGHTEN US!

BUT LATER...
SHHH—I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU WHILE HE'S ASLEEP! JUST SAY THE WORD AND YOU CAN HAVE A GOOD MEAL— HE'LL NEVER KNOW...
I—I'M BEGINNING TO HATE YOU! YOU WANT ME TO CHEAT, TO DENY MY LOVE FOR BOB! I WON'T!

AND STILL LATER...
LISTEN—WHILE SHE'S SLEEPING! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A NICE THICK JUICY STEAK? LET HER STARVE IF SHE WANTS TO...
MARY TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR OFFER! MY ANSWER IS THE SAME AS HERS! NO!

IT WOULD BE EASY FOR US TO DENY OUR LOVE! WE COULD TAKE YOUR MONEY—THEN GET MARRIED! BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR, ISN'T IT? YOU'RE CYNICAL AND EVIL AND YOU WANT US TO BE THAT WAY, TOO— BUT WE WON'T!
SO? HAH-HAH! WE'LL SEE! THE EXPERIMENT HAS ONLY BEGUN! JUST WAIT...

A WEEK PASSES...
GLAD YOU DROPPED IN, HORTON! THEY'RE REALLY HUNGRY NOW! WATCH WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I—(CHUCKLE)— DROP THIS LOAF OF BREAD!
THEY LOOK HALF DEAD! DON'T YOU THINK THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH?
F-FOOD! I SMELL IT!

A GRIM SIGHT...
BREAD! LET ME HAVE IT! I'M STARVING! LET GO!
NO! IT'S MINE! ALL MINE! YOU CAN'T HAVE ANY! GIVE IT TO ME!

AHHH— THAT'S GOOD! BREAD! FOOD AT LAST! (CHOMP—CHOMP)—
NO! SAVE ME SOME! PLEASE— I'M SO HUNGRY!
YOU SEE, HORTON! LIKE WILD BEASTS! HAH—HAH— HAH!

BUT THEN...
Y-YES— I AM ACTING LIKE A WILD ANIMAL! ALL I WAS THINKING ABOUT WAS MY STOMACH, MY OWN HUNGER! I FORGOT ABOUT MARY...

H-HERE, DARLING! I'M SORRY! I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME OVER ME! HERE, TAKE THE BREAD!
HEH-HEH—SO HE'S GOING TO BE NOBLE AND SELF-SACRIFICING AFTER ALL!
YES—YES! GIVE IT TO ME! AHHHH— SO GOOD!

OH! I COULD EAT A DOZEN MORE LOAVES! I'M STILL —(CHOMP-CHOMP)— SO TERRIBLY HUNGRY!
B-BUT, MARY! I—I DIDN'T...
YOU'RE A WEAK FOOL, YOUNG MAN!

LATER...
WELL, CHADWICK, LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE! THAT WAS A PRETTY NASTY SCENE, BUT HE DID GIVE HER THE BREAD!
YOU ARE A ROMANTIC OLD FOOL, HORTON! OF COURSE HE GAVE HER THE BREAD! BUT SEE WHAT HAPPENED...

SHE ATE IT ALL, WITHOUT A THOUGHT FOR HIM! HE WON'T FORGET THAT! AND THEY STILL HAVE THREE WEEKS TO GO—UNLESS THEY DENY THEIR LOVE AND ASK TO BE LET OUT! DON'T WORRY, HORTON, I'LL PROVE MY POINT! PEOPLE CARE MORE ABOUT THEIR BELLIES THAN THEIR HEARTS!

BUT WHEN HORTON IS ALONE...
I'M SURE NOW THAT CHADWICK IS MAD! I'LL WATCH MY CHANCE AND RELEASE THOSE YOUNGSTERS, SINCE THEY WON'T GIVE UP!

A WEEK PASSES...
CHADWICK HAS BEEN WATCHING THEM LIKE A HAWK! BUT THIS IS MY CHANCE TO LET THEM GO!
POOR KIDS— THEY LOOK LIKE SAVAGES!

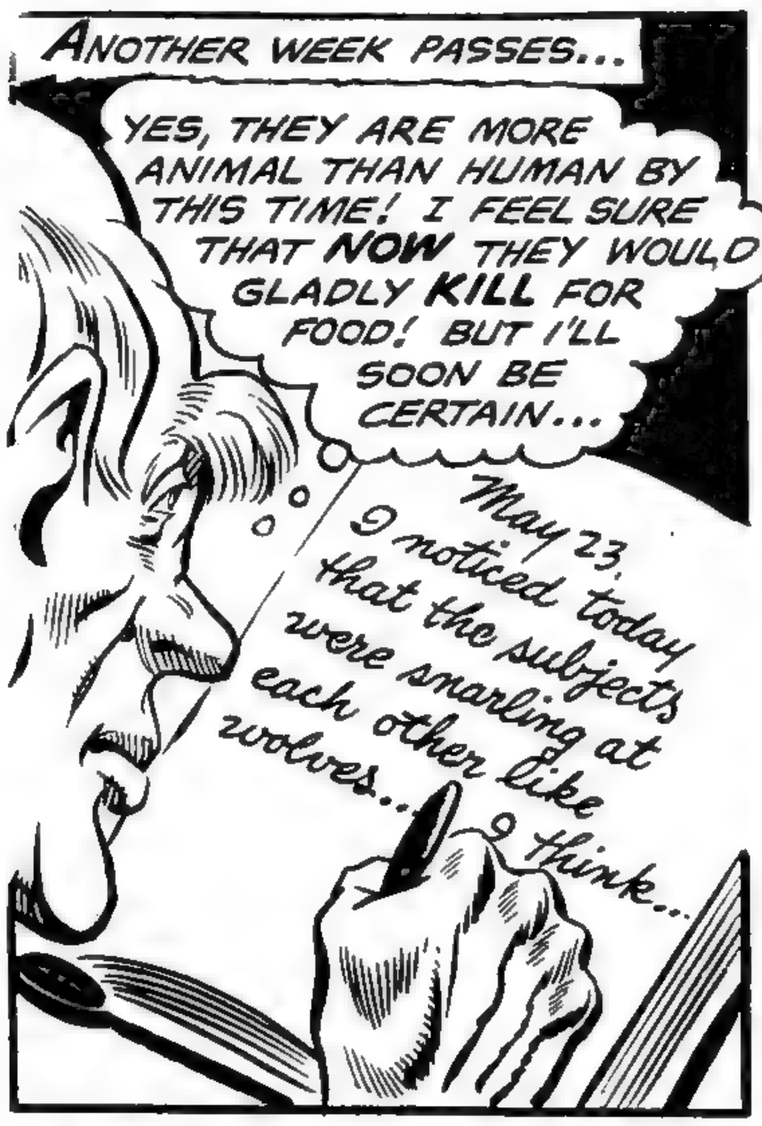
YOU MUST LEAVE AT ONCE, UNDERSTAND? CHADWICK IS A LUNATIC—IT'S DANGEROUS TO GO ON WITH THIS CRAZY EXPERIMENT!
B—BUT OUR MONEY! WE'LL HAVE BEEN THROUGH ALL THIS FOR NOTHING!
AND THAT LITTLE DEVIL WILL THINK HE'S WON!

SUDDENLY...
SO, HORTON! JUST AS I FEARED! IT'S A GOOD THING I WAS EXPECTING YOU!
CHADWICK! THAT GUN—W—WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?

YOU'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH, MY DEAR COLLEAGUE! NOW IN YOU GO! SINCE YOU'RE SO INTERESTED IN MY EXPERIMENT, YOU CAN BECOME A PART OF IT!
BUT THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS! YOU REALLY ARE INSANE!

PERHAPS SO, MY FRIEND! BUT NOT TOO CRAZY TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE SPOILED MY EXPERIMENT! SO I'LL CHANGE MY PLANS...
CLICK

WE'LL GET YOU!
TEAR HIS EYES OUT!
NOW—NOW! IS THAT ANY WAY FOR YOUNG LOVERS TO TALK? PERHAPS MY EXPERIMENT HAS BEEN PROVEN AFTER ALL—YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN HUNGRY SAVAGES!


ANOTHER WEEK PASSES...
YES, THEY ARE MORE ANIMAL THAN HUMAN BY THIS TIME! I FEEL SURE THAT NOW THEY WOULD GLADLY KILL FOR FOOD! BUT I'LL SOON BE CERTAIN...
May 23. I noticed today that the subjects were snarling at each other like wolves... I think...

AND... LOOK WHAT I'VE GOT FOR YOU! A NICE, RAW STEAK! IT WILL KEEP ONE OF YOU ALIVE A LONG TIME! BUT ONLY—(CHUCKLE)—ONE OF YOU!

THERE! NOW I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO KILL EACH OTHER FOR IT! REMEMBER YOU'RE CIVILIZED...
AGHHHH— GIMME!
NO! ME!
AHHHH—

BUT AS HE ADJUSTS THE TRAP-DOOR, HE SLIPS...
OH, THE CAGE! SLIPPERY! I—I'M F-FALLING INTO THE CAGE!

BUT...
IT'S OKAY! I DIDN'T GO ALL THE WAY IN! NOW JUST TO WRIGGLE OUT!

PROFESSOR CHADWICK SUDDENLY FINDS THAT HE CANNOT MOVE! BUT WHY?...
Y-YOU! LET GO OF MY LEGS! YOU CAN'T! NO! DON'T, FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN...
ARRRRRRR—
AGARRRRR—

M-MY LEGS!
EEEEEEYOWWWWW—

The End

OUT OF THE NIGHT CAME THE GROTESQUE LITTLE MAN, CLUTCHING A MILLION DOLLARS IN CASH, MONEY THAT COULD BUY HIM ANYTHING IN THE WORLD— EXCEPT HIS OWN LIFE! FOR OF ALL THE PLACES HE COULD HAVE PICKED TO HIDE- HE SELECTED THE ONE SPOT WHERE DOOM WAITED WITH SLAVERING JAWS! THERE WAS TERROR LURKING IN THE COLD FOG HANGING OVER THE ROTTING OLD MANSION LIKE A FUNERAL SHROUD, AND AT LAST A CRIMINAL KNEW THE UNTOLD HORROR THAT ONLY HE CAN KNOW WHO FINDS HIMSELF **IN AN EVIL HOUSE...**

BLOOD AND OLD BONES

GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU FILTHY BRUTES! DOWN — YOU HEAR ME! YOU MAKE ONE PASS AT ME AND I'LL BLAST YOU OUT OF YOUR SKINS!
AGRRR—
GRRRR—
PRINCE! SATAN! DOWN, BOYS, LEAVE HIM ALONE! AND YOU, MISTER, YOU BETTER NOT USE THAT GUN IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!
HUH! A DAME! IF THESE ARE YOUR DOGS, LADY, YOU BETTER CALL 'EM OFF!
GRRRRRR—
YOU'RE SAFE NOW, MISTER! NOW SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU MEAN BY SNOOPING AROUND HERE? WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?
LOOK, YOU! THIS IS A GUN! TRY ANYTHING AND I'LL LET BOTH YOU AND THE DOGS HAVE IT! I'M THE BOSS, SEE?
NOW GET AHEAD INTO THE HOUSE AND DON'T MAKE ANY TROUBLE! I JUST ROBBED A BANK AND KILLED A MAN AND I'M DESPERATE!
HMM — MURDER AND BANK ROBBERY, EH? DON'T BE SO TOUGH, MISTER! MAYBE WE CAN GET TOGETHER!
I MUST TALK TO YOU QUICKLY, BEFORE MY HUSBAND COMES BACK! YOU'RE THE SORT OF MAN I'VE BEEN WANTING TO MEET— I—I THINK WE CAN DO BUSINESS!
BUSINESS? YOUR HUSBAND? SAY, LADY— WHAT IS THIS?
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU COLD TURKEY! I HATE MY HUSBAND— AND I WANT YOU TO KILL HIM AND TAKE ME AWAY! I WANT TO START ALL OVER AGAIN!

MEANTIME AT THE NEARBY KENNELS...

OKAY, YOU HOUNDS — TIME FOR CHOW! AND I DON'T MEAN YOU SHOULD EAT ME! DOWN! CAN'T YA WAIT A MINUTE?

THERE YA ARE! LIKE IT, HUH? WELL, YA GET JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU FROM STARVING, SEE! AND TONIGHT YOU'LL GET YOUR BONES AS USUAL!

GRRRRRR—

ARRRRRR—

I—(CHUCKLE)—GOT A FORTUNE TIED UP IN THOSE DOGS, BUT I'LL MAKE PLENTY! KEEP 'EM HALF STARVED, FEED 'EM THOSE OLD BONES, AND TEACH 'EM TO HATE MEN! HAH—NO WONDER THE COPS BUY SO MANY TO TRACK DOWN CROOKS!

BUT...

HUH! WHAT IS THIS? WHO'S THIS LUG, MYRA? AND WHATSA IDEA OF THE GUN?

JUST DON'T START ANY TROUBLE, BUSTER!

MEET MR. KILEY, BUTCH! HE'S TAKEN OVER HERE!

YOU HEARD WHAT YOUR WIFE SAID, MUG! I'VE TAKEN OVER — HAH — SHE IS SO RIGHT! I AIM TO HOLE UP HERE UNTIL THE HEAT'S OFF — AND ANYONE THAT'S GOT OTHER IDEAS GETS A SLUG IN THE BRISKET! GET ME?

NOW THAT WE GOT THINGS ALL SETTLED, I WANT THE DAME TO HUSTLE UP SOME GRUB! I'M SO HUNGRY I COULD EAT ONE OF THEM DOGS OF YOURS!

COMING UP, MR. KILEY!

HUH! YA GOT TO BE SO FRIENDLY WITH THIS CROOK, MYRA?

WISH I COULD TURN THE DOGS ON HIM!

AS DARKNESS SETTLES LIKE A BLACK SHROUD...

YA GONNA HAVE TROUBLE WITH THE DOGS, MISTER! THEY'RE GOING CRAZY BECAUSE IT'S FEEDING TIME!

BUTCH IS RIGHT! AND THEY MIGHT ATTRACT ATTENTION!

YOU'RE LYING TO ME! I KNOW YOU JUST FED THEM BRUTES A LITTLE WHILE AGO!

RRRRR—

YA DON'T UNDERSTAND, MISTER! WE FEED THOSE DOGS A VERY— (CHUCKLE)—SPECIAL DIET! I GOT TO GO EVERY NIGHT AND GET IT!

CUT IT OUT, YOU! I GOT A NOTION TO BLAST YOU! WHAT KIND OF DOG FOOD IS IT THAT YOU CAN ONLY GET AT NIGHT?

FOR ONCE MY HUSBAND IS RIGHT! THOSE DOGS ARE VERY VALUABLE, AND SPECIALLY TRAINED TO HUNT DOWN MEN! WE SELL THEM TO THE ARMY AND TO PRISONS! HERE, TAKE OUR CAR KEYS AND LET MY HUSBAND FEED THEM.

WELL, I RECKON YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITHOUT A CAR! THIS HOUSE IS TOO ISOLATED! SO COME ON, YOU, AND LET'S SEE WHAT KIND OF DOG FOOD YOU'VE BEEN USING! BUT NO TRICKS!

SOON...

YOU SURE PICKED A FUNNY WAY TO FEED YOUR DOGS, FELLA! WE'VE BEEN ON THIS DESERTED OLD PATH NOW FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES! IF I THOUGHT YOU WAS UP TO ANYTHING...

I AIN'T UP TO NOTHING, MISTER, EXCEPT FEEDING MY DOGS! YOU'RE GONNA —(CHUCKLE)— GET A REAL SURPRISE SOON!

HUH! AN OLD CEMETERY! WHAT'S THE IDEA OF COMING HERE? THERE'S NO DOG-FOOD AROUND HERE!

HAH-HAH! THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! BUT IN A MINUTE YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN!

MEANTIME BACK AT THE HOUSE...

THAT LITTLE CROOK IS ALMOST AS BIG A FOOL AS MY HUSBAND! LEAVING HIS BAG HERE WITH ME LIKE THIS! BUT I'D BETTER CHECK JUST TO SEE IF HE'S LYING!

MONEY! HE ROBBED THAT BANK ALL RIGHT! THERE MUST BE AT LEAST A MILLION HERE! NOW IF HE'LL JUST DO AS I ASKED, AND KILL MY HUSBAND, I'LL BE ALL SET! AND IF I HEAR A PISTOL SHOT, I'LL KNOW MY SCHEME IS WORKING!

WHILE AT THE CEMETERY...

OKAY, SO YOU GOT TO DIG IN THAT OLD GRAVE! BUT WHY? WHAT'S THE GIMMICK?

I TOLD YA, MISTER! THIS IS WHERE I GET THE FOOD THAT MAKES MY DOGS SO FIERCE!

THE BONES ARE FOR MY DOGS, YA SEE! DRY OLD HUMAN BONES! I FEED 'EM SOME EVERY DAY AND THEY LIKE IT! MAKES 'EM FIERCE, DON'T HURT NOBODY, AND DON'T COST ANYTHING! CUTE, HUH?

HUH! YOU MEAN YOU FEED THEM *HUMAN* BONES! UGH!

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!

HMM—HE'S GETTING A LITTLE CARELESS NOW! IF I CAN BRAIN HIM WITH THIS OLD SKULL!

YOU MAKE ME A LITTLE SICK AT MY STOMACH, MAC! HEY, THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING OVER THERE IN THE BUSHES!

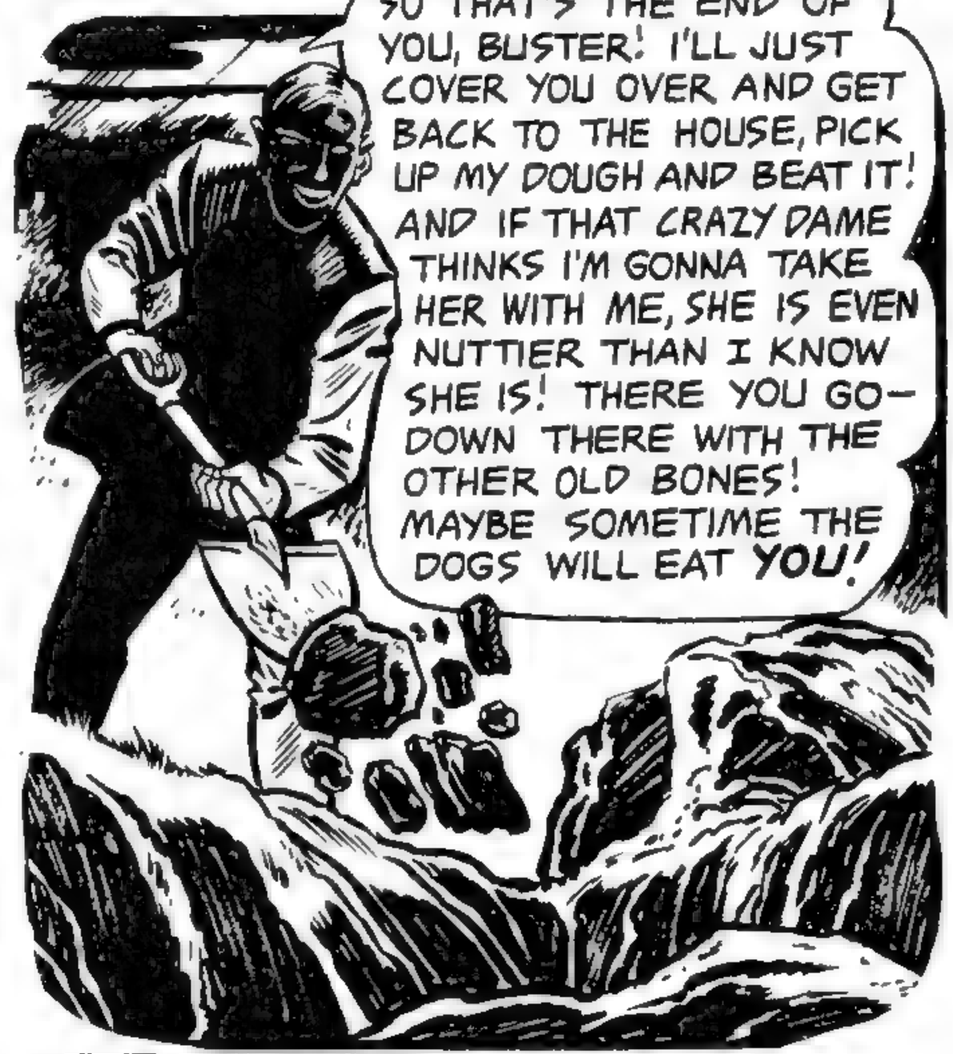
YA GONNA HEAR SOMETHING ALL RIGHT! LIKE LITTLE BIRDIES BUZZING IN YOUR EARS WHEN THIS NEW KIND OF BOWLING BALL CROCKS YA!

HUH!

UHYIII—MY HEAD! WHY, YOU DIRTY...
GOT YA NOW, YA CRUMMY LITTLE CROOK! I'LL SLICE YA INTO DOG MEAT WITH THIS SPADE! AND MY DOGS WILL LIKE THAT!

NO YOU DON'T, BUSTER! TAKE THIS SLUG IN YOUR BELLY! I WASN'T GONNA DO LIKE THAT CRAZY DAME ASKED ME, BUT NOW...
GAAAAAAA—

NGGGG— THE P-PAIN! I'M DYING— OHHHHHH!
GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU! I WARNED YOU, STUPID, NOT TO TRY ANY TRICKS ON ME!


SO THAT'S THE END OF YOU, BUSTER! I'LL JUST COVER YOU OVER AND GET BACK TO THE HOUSE, PICK UP MY DOUGH AND BEAT IT! AND IF THAT CRAZY DAME THINKS I'M GONNA TAKE HER WITH ME, SHE IS EVEN NUTTIER THAN I KNOW SHE IS! THERE YOU GO— DOWN THERE WITH THE OTHER OLD BONES! MAYBE SOMETIME THE DOGS WILL EAT YOU!

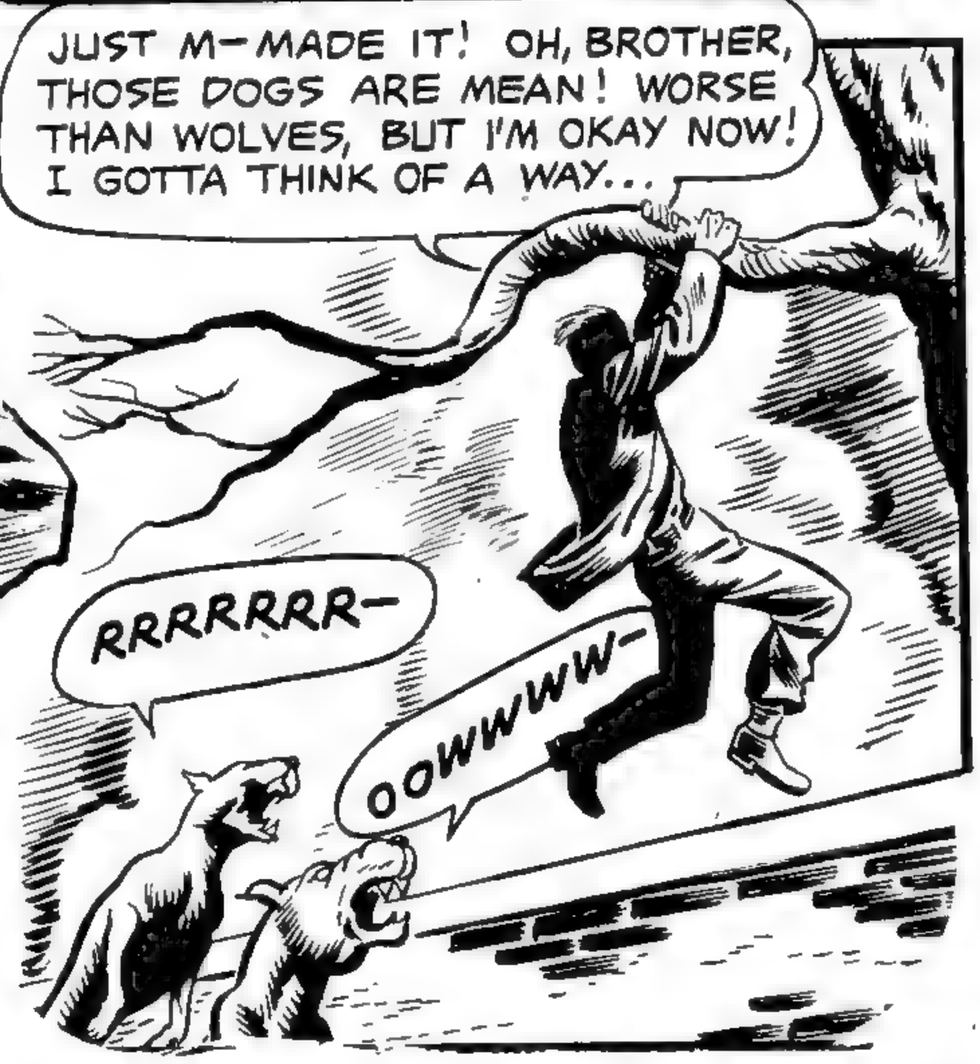
BACK AT THE HOUSE THE WOMAN HAS HEARD THE PISTOL SHOT...
HE'S DONE IT! KILLED MY HUSBAND! I'M FREE OF BUTCH AT LAST! NOW TO PUT THE REST OF MY SCHEME TO WORK! THE DOGS...

GO GET THE STRANGER, BOYS! TEAR HIM TO PIECES! GO SIC HIM! SIC-SIC! KILL HIM!
YOWWWW—
GRRRRRR—
RRR—

BACK AT THE CEMETERY, KILLER KILEY PLAYS A GRIM JOKE...
I'LL JUST PUT THIS OLD—(CHUCKLE)—TOMBSTONE OVER HIM! NEVER SAY I DON'T PAY PROPER RESPECT TO THE DEAD—EVEN WHEN I MAKE THEM THAT WAY!

SUDDENLY A WAVE OF TERROR WASHES OVER THE LITTLE MURDERER...
THE D-DOGS! C-COMING AFTER ME! GOING TO KILL ME! THAT CRAZY DAME MUST OF SENT THEM AFTER ME!
YIIIOWWWW-
OOYOUUUU-
GRRRR-

YIIII—CAN'T FIGHT THESE BRUTES! I GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! IF I CAN ONLY MAKE IT TO THAT TREE BY THE WALL!
YORRRRRR-


JUST M-MADE IT! OH, BROTHER, THOSE DOGS ARE MEAN! WORSE THAN WOLVES, BUT I'M OKAY NOW! I GOTTA THINK OF A WAY...
RRRRRRR-
OOWWWW-

SUDDENLY HE HEARS A SINISTER CRACKING SOUND, AND HIS COWARD'S HEART TURNS TO JELLY...
THE B-BRANCH IS CRACKING! OH, NO! NO! AHHHHHH—

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE—
GRRRR-RRR—
AHRRRR-RRR-

AND BACK AT THE HOUSE...
ALL SET! BUTCH IS DEAD AND THE DOGS MUST HAVE THAT LITTLE FOOL BY NOW! HA— ALL CROOKS ARE SO STUPID—HE NEVE THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT HAVE ANOTHER SET OF KEYS FOR MY CAR!
WHIRR-RR-RR-RRRRRR.
WHAT! MY CAR WON'T START! THAT CROOK WASN'T SO DUMB AFTER ALL! HE'S DONE SOMETHING TO THE MOTOR! PROBABLY TOOK THE DISTRIBUTOR HEAD OR SOMETHING!
WELL, I'LL USE HIS CAR! OH, THE DOGS ARE BACK—AND THEY'RE AFTER ME! NO, PRINCE, SATAN! DOWN! GET DOWN! GET AWAY!
GRRRRR-
ARRRRR-
EEEE— THEY WON'T OBEY ME! THEY'RE STILL HUNGRY— FOR I M—ME! THEY'VE TASTED FLESH, AND NOW...
AND NOW SHE SEES THE GAPING RED JAWS OF HER PETS, CLOSER—CLOSER— AND CLOSER...
NO! YOU CAN'T
AAAAEEEEEAIIEE-
AND SO THE POLICE FOUND THEM AND BURIED WHAT WAS LEFT! THE MONEY WAS RECOVERED AND SOON THE EVIL STORY WOULD HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN, BUT...
NOW, WHEN THE WINTER STORMS COME, PASSERS-BY SAY THAT AROUND THE DESERTED OLD HOUSE CAN BE SEEN THE GAUNT BLACK FIGURES OF THE HOUNDS, HOWLING LIKE LOST SOULS! PERHAPS! WHO KNOW?
THE END

FOREVER DEAD

HE LOVED HIS WIFE AND WHEN SHE DIED, HE WAS WILLING TO PAY A GRUESOME PRICE TO HAVE HER BACK! HE PUT HIS OWN DESIRE ABOVE THE AWFUL WILL OF THE BLACK BEAST WHICH STALKS US ALL — **DEATH!** THEN, WHEN THE **THING** CAME AND KNOCKED AT HIS DOOR, HE SCREAMED AT WHAT HE SAW! FOR IT WAS NOT HIS WIFE THAT HE SAW, BUT A VILE AND FLESHLESS **THING OF TERROR...**

THAT NIGHT AS GEOFFREY FISHER SITS AT HOME, STEEPED IN AN AGONIZING LONELINESS AND REGRET...

DOLORES! DARLING! I CAN'T FACE IT! I CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT YOU! I MISS YOU SO MUCH!

SUDDENLY THERE COMES A KNOCKING AT THE DOOR! A SOFT AND SINISTER KNOCKING...

HUH! BUT W-WHO COULD BE KNOCKING AT THIS HOUR? I TOLD EVERYONE TO LEAVE ME ALONE!

KNOCK-KNOCK

GOOD EVENING, MR. FISHER! HERE IS MY CARD! I KNOW YOUR TROUBLE AND I THINK PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU!

WHAT? WHO ARE YOU? HOW DO YOU MEAN, YOU CAN HELP ME?

I MEAN WHAT I SAY, MR. FISHER! AS THE CARD SAYS, I AM A MAGICIAN — OF SORTS! I MIGHT SAY, ALSO, THAT I AM JUST THE MAN YOU NEED AT THE MOMENT!

DR. JUDAS DEALER IN MAGIC

AS GEOFFREY FISHER SURVEYS THE STRANGER HE FEELS A COLDNESS ALONG HIS SPINE! HE IS AWARE THAT SOMETHING EVIL HAS COME INTO THE ROOM...

I — I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND! HOW CAN YOU HELP ME?

I CAN, NEVER DOUBT IT! BUT MY FEE IS, WELL, RATHER HIGH! BUT WHAT I CAN DO FOR YOU WILL BE WORTH IT!

YOU WANT YOUR WIFE BACK, MR. FISHER! I CAN DO THAT! I CAN RETURN YOUR DEAD WIFE TO YOU! I POSITIVELY GUARANTEE IT!

LATER, AS DR. JUDAS GOES TO THE CEMETERY WHERE THE WIFE IS BURIED...
A GOOD NIGHT'S WORK SO FAR! NOW IF ONLY THIS CORPSE IS NOT RESISTANT TO MY POWERS!

HAH, HERE IS THE GRAVE! NOT LET ME SEE — YES, I THINK THE SPELL OF WANAKETA SHOULD DO IT! WANAKETA, THE FIRST ZOMBIE MASTER!

JUDAS MAKES SEVERAL MYSTERIOUS PASSES IN THE AIR! LIGHTNING FLASHES AND THE THUNDER CRACKLES OVERHEAD! THEN THE EARTH OF THE GRAVE MOVES AND BURSTS ASUNDER...
COME OUT OF YOUR GRAVE, WOMAN! COME!

I OBEY, MY MASTER! I KNOW YOUR POWER! I HAVE HEARD YOUR MESSAGE AND UNDERSTOOD IT! I WILL OBEY YOU!

YES, YOU WILL OBEY! YOU ARE NOW OF THE LIVING DEAD! YOU KNOW WHERE I WANT YOU TO GO?
I KNOW, MASTER! TO MY HUSBAND, WHO WOULD HAVE ME BACK! BUT IS THIS WISE, MASTER? YOU SEE HOW I LOOK!

DO AS I BID YOU! BUT NOT YET! WAIT HERE UNTIL I SUMMON YOU! THEN COME IMMEDIATELY!
AS YOU COMMAND ME, MASTER!

INCREDIBLE AS IT SOUNDS, GEOFFREY FISHER IS READY TO DO ANYTHING! HASTILY HE WRITES THE STRANGER A CHECK...

HERE YOU ARE! ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS! BUT REMEMBER, IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR WORD, I'LL STOP PAYMENT!

DR. JUDAS ALWAYS KEEPS HIS WORD! YOU WILL HAVE YOUR WIFE BACK— TONIGHT!

KEEP YOUR CHECK UNTIL I DELIVER HER! I WANT NOTHING THAT I HAVE NOT EARNED! NOW I MUST LEAVE YOU!

Y-YOU KNOW, I ALMOST BEGIN TO BELIEVE YOU! I DON'T SEE HOW YOU CAN DO IT, BUT IF YOU CAN, I'LL BE IN YOUR DEBT FOREVER!

KEEP YOUR THANKS, AS WELL AS YOUR MONEY, UNTIL YOU ACTUALLY SEE YOUR WIFE! BUT EXPECT YOUR WIFE IN LESS THAN AN HOUR!

LATER AS REACTION SETS IN...

WHAT HAVE I DONE? I MUST HAVE BEEN CRAZY! HOW COULD HE POSSIBLY BRING BACK THE DEAD? HE'S SOME KIND OF A CRANK, I SUPPOSE!

BUT IF ONLY IT COULD BE TRUE! IF BY SOME MIRACLE HE COULD GIVE ME BACK DOLORES! OH, PLEASE, LET IT BE TRUE! PLEASE LET IT HAPPEN! BUT IN THE MEANTIME, I'D BETTER EAT SOMETHING!

BUT IN ONLY A FEW MINUTES...

HUH! S-SOMEBODY AT THE DOOR! BUT IT COULDN'T BE, NOT YET! THERE HASN'T BEEN TIME ENOUGH— AND THIS WHOLE THING IS INSANE! I MUST BE HAVING A NIGHTMARE...

KNOCK KNOCK

NEVERTHELESS, HIS HEART POUNDING, GEOFFREY FISHER RUSHES TO THE DOOR...

GEOFFREY! GEOFFREY, DARLING, OPEN THE DOOR! IT'S DOLORES!

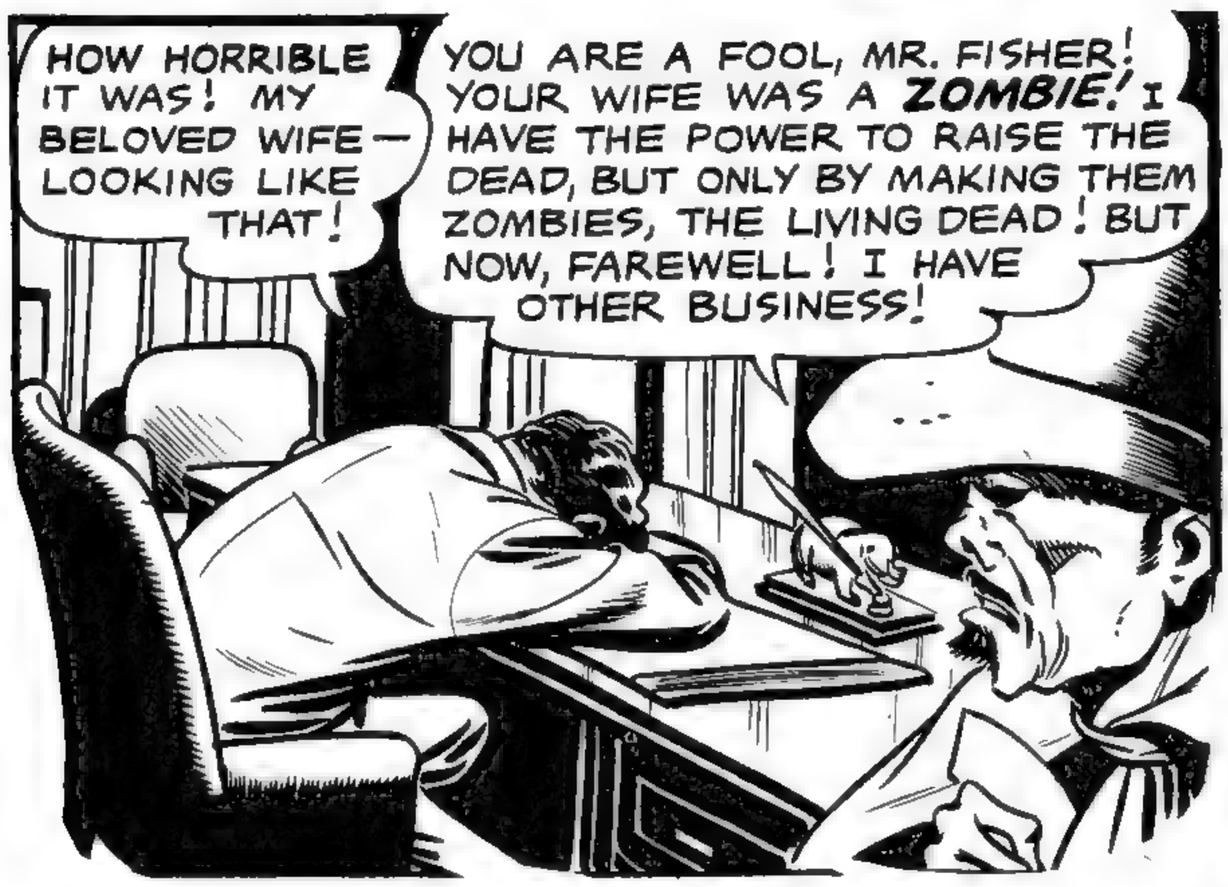
T-THAT'S MY WIFE'S VOICE! I'D KNOW IT ANYWHERE! S-SHE REALLY HAS COME BACK TO ME!

I'M COMING, DOLORES! I'M COMING!

BUT WHEN HE OPENS THE DOOR AND SEES THE DREADFUL THING THAT STANDS THERE...
DOLORES! OWWWWWW— YOU'RE NOT MY WIFE!
OF COURSE I AM, DARLING! COME BACK TO YOU! COME BACK FROM MY GRAVE!
NO! YOU'RE HORRIBLE! GO AWAY FROM ME, YOU— YOU THING! I KNOW YOU'RE NOT DOLORES! YIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII—
BUT I AM, SWEETHEART! SURELY YOU DIDN'T EXPECT ME TO LOOK THE WAY I DID WHEN I WAS ALIVE? REMEMBER THAT I'M DEAD!
D-DEAD! YES, I KNOW! BUT THAT MAN, THAT STRANGER, PROMISED TO SEND YOU BACK TO ME! I WANT THE REAL DOLORES, MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE!
YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HIM, DEAREST! BUT ISN'T IT ENOUGH THAT I'M HERE, THAT WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN ONCE MORE! COME AND KISS ME, MY SWEET!
KISS YOU! NO— GAAAAAAA—
SUDDENLY, DR. JUDAS ENTERS THE ROOM...
THAT'S ENOUGH, DOLORES! LEAVE YOUR HUSBAND ALONE! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT HE DOESN'T WANT YOU BACK AFTER ALL?
YES, I SEE! I'M DISAPPOINTED! BUT I WILL OBEY YOU, DR. JUDAS! WHAT ARE YOUR COMMANDS?
AS THE CORPSE-WOMAN IS ABOUT TO LEAVE THE ROOM...
WHAT'S WRONG, MR. FISHER? I'VE KEPT MY END OF THE BARGAIN, HAVEN'T I? BUT PERHAPS YOU ARE NO LONGER SO ANXIOUS TO HAVE HER BACK!
NO—NO! SHE'S HORRIBLE! TAKE HER AWAY!

BUT AS GEOFFREY FISHER SEES THE HORRIBLE THING FROM THE GRAVE APPROACH HIM, HER FLESHLESS LIPS PURSED FOR A KISS...

SO DOLORES FISHER LEAVES HER HUSBAND AGAIN, THIS TIME FOREVER...



SHORTLY AFTERWARD, DR. JUDAS APPROACHES A NEWSSTAND...

BUT NOW A SUDDEN REMORSE SETS IN AS THE TERROR BEGINS TO VANISH...
I — I WAS CRUEL TO DOLORES! AFTER ALL, SHE CAME FROM HER GRAVE TO BE WITH ME AGAIN! BUT SHE WAS SUCH A — HORROR!

FOLLOWING A STRANGE COMPULSION HE FINDS HIMSELF ENTERING THE CEMETERY WHERE HIS WIFE IS ONCE AGAIN IN HER GRAVE...
I MUST SEE HER AGAIN! NO MATTER WHAT — SHE IS STILL MY BELOVED WIFE!

AS HE KNEELS BY THE GRAVE...
DOLORES! DOLORES, DARLING! I'M SORRY! COME BACK TO ME AGAIN, PLEASE! LET ME BE WITH YOU!

SUDDENLY HE SENSES A FIGURE BEHIND HIM...
SO, MY FRIEND! YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND AGAIN! I MUST SAY THAT YOU ARE HARD TO PLEASE!
DR. JUDAS! HELP ME! LET ME BE WITH HER AGAIN, PLEASE! B-BUT I HAVE NO MORE MONEY TO PAY YOU!

I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU! FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE I FEEL PITY! SO I WILL HELP YOU — AND IT WILL COST YOU NOTHING!
T-THANK YOU! BUT HOW? HOW CAN YOU HELP ME?

DR. JUDAS EXPLAINS — AND THE DESPERATE MAN AGREES! SO AFTER JUDAS SINKS A KNIFE INTO HIS HEART, KILLING HIM, HE RETURNS — AS A ZOMBIE ALSO...
YES, ROGER! WE CAN ROAM THE WORLD TOGETHER, ALWAYS UNDEAD! BUT COME, LET US BEGIN OUR TRAVELS!
DOLORES! DARLING! HE KEPT HIS WORD! I HAVE YOU AGAIN, THIS TIME FOREVER! SEE, I AM A ZOMBIE ALSO!

AND DR. JUDAS, A STRANGE SMILE ON HIS CRAFTY FACE, WATCHES THEM WALK OUT INTO ETERNITY...
YES, WE KNOW! BUT THAT'S IN THE FUTURE! GOOD-BYE!
WE'LL HAVE A BEAUTIFUL DEATH TOGETHER, SWEETHEART! JUST YOU AND ME — FOREVER! COME! I KNOW A SPLENDID TOMB WHERE WE CAN SET UP HOUSEKEEPING!
FAREWELL, MY FRIENDS! WE WILL MEET AGAIN! REMEMBER — YOU MUST ALWAYS DO MY BIDDING!
The End

THIEF of SOULS

ONCE, BACK IN THE SHADOWS OF TIME, THERE LIVED A GREEDY KING! LUST HAD ETCHED HIS FACE AND MADE SPIDER HOLLOWS OF HIS EYES! FROM HIS TORTURE CHAMBERS CAME THE DYING SCREAMS OF THOSE HE HAD PILLAGED AND FORGOTTEN! NOW IT HAPPENED THAT THIS KING HAD A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WIFE... BUT THEREBY HANGS THE TALE OF THE BLEEDING RUBY...

SO THE KING SENT HIS JESTER TO FETCH THE MAGICIAN MERLO...
HAH— MERLO MUST BE MIXING A WITCHE'S BREW! SEE HOW THE SCAVENGERS HOVER!

WULF IS GREETED WITH DERISION...
HO, LOOK WHO COMES TO SEE OUR MASTER!
YOU ARE THE FOOLS! TAKE ME TO MERLO AT ONCE!
A FOOL!

COME, JESTER! AND PRAY THAT MERLO DOES NOT SEND YOU TO JOIN THESE!
UGH—A VILE PLACE! IF MY BLOOD WERE WATER, IT WOULD FREEZE!

HAH—HAH! WELCOME, SIR FOOL! YOU CAN SHARE MY CAGE IF YOU WILL! HEH—HEH—HEH...

HERE WE ARE! BETTER PRAY, FOOL!
ENTER!
BEING A JESTER AND NOT A LIAR, I WILL NOT SAY THAT I AM NOT AFRAID.

GREETINGS, JESTER! MY VISION FORETOLD YOUR COMING! BUT IT WOULD NOT TELL ME WHAT YOU SEEK!

WULF EXPLAINS HIS MISSION...

SO YOUR GREEDY KING WANTS MY PRECIOUS STONES, DOES HE...

YES, MOST EXALTED ONE! HE HAS HEARD THAT YOUR BLACK ARTS PRODUCE THE FINEST OF GEMS!

HE SHALL HAVE THEM! INDEED HE SHALL! IF... HAH-HAH- CAN PAY THE PRICE! A TERRIBLE PRICE...

SO IT IS AGREED...

VERY WELL! I WILL VISIT YOUR KING SOON! BUT REMIND HIM THE PRICE IS HIGH!

HE WILL PAY!

IN BLOOD, IF I KNOW MY SIRE! MERLO'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED!

SO MERLO CAME TO THE CASTLE OF TARANTO WHERE ALREADY THE EVIL KING WAS PLANNING COLD AND BLOODY MURDER...

YOUR WIFE, SIRE? THEN IT IS FOR HER YOU WISH MY GEMS?

MY WIFE NO, MERLO! FOR MYSELF! I WOULD OWN THE FINEST GEM IN ALL THE WORLD!

FROM THIS PORTRAIT, SIRE, YOU ALREADY OWN THE FINEST OF GEMS! BUT YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND! NOW LISTEN WELL...

YOU MUST GIVE ME YOUR WIFE, SIRE! FROM HER SOUL, I WILL MAKE SUCH A GEM AS THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN! IT WILL BE AS SHE IS — PURE AND RADIANT!

MY W-WIFE! YOU WOULD TAKE HER SOUL?

EVEN THE KING IS DAUNTED AT THE THOUGHT OF SELLING HIS WIFE'S SOUL! THAT NIGHT HE WALKS THE BATTLEMENTS, PONDERING...

A RUBY! HAH — RED AS BLOOD! THE FINEST IN ALL THE WORLD... AND MADE OF A WOMAN'S SOUL!

LATER...
YOUR RUBY, SIRE! SEE HOW PURE AND DEEP IS THE COLOR! YOUR QUEEN LIVES WITHIN IT!
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MERLO! GIVE IT TO ME—QUICKLY!

YES! IT IS AS LOVELY AS WAS LYGA! AND NOW, MERLO, I WILL PAY YOU! GUARDS...

AT THE COMMAND OF THE KING...
YOU DIE, MERLO!
WHAT IS THIS TREACHERY?
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO! QUICKLY, BEFORE HE CAN CAST A SPELL ON US!

AND MERLO GOES TO JOIN THE TWO GUARDS WHO HAD SEIZED THE QUEEN...
YOU WILL BE BAIT FOR VULTURES SOON!
HAH-HAH— SAVE THYSELF, MAGICIAN!
I CURSE YOU ALL! I... AHHHHHH-

BUT ONE OTHER PERSON NOW KNOWS THE KING'S TERRIBLE SECRET...
MONSTER! SO THAT IS WHY LYGA DISAPPEARED! I, THOUGH BUT A FOOL, WILL HAVE VENGEANCE!

THE KING HAS NEVER SUSPECTED THAT HIS JESTER WULF HAS A SECRET ALSO... WULF WAS IN LOVE WITH LYGA...
I LOVED HER! NEVER DID SHE KNOW BECAUSE I AM ONLY A CLOWN! BUT I WORSHIPPED HER! AND HE WILL PAY— PAY AND PAY!

WULF TAKES TO WATCHING THE KING, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT...
LUCKY MURDERER! HIS GUARDS ARE ALWAYS CLOSE! AND I MUST SMILE WHEN I WOULD SLAY HIM!

THEN ONE NIGHT AS THE KING TAKES THE RUBY TO BED WITH HIM AS USUAL...
THE R-RUBY! SOMETHING IS HAPPENING TO IT! CHANGING... GETTING CLOUDY...

THE FACE OF LYGA APPEARS IN THE RUBY AND HER VOICE CLASHES LIKE SWORDPLAY IN THE KING'S DERANGED MIND...
LYGA! N—NO!
I AM COMING, SIRE! RETURNING! I WANT MY SOUL BACK! I WILL COME SOON NOW...

A CHILL OF TERROR RUNS THROUGH THE KING AS HE SEES A GHOST FORM APPEAR...
W—WHO... WHAT ARE YOU?

YES! YOU SEE ME AS YOU MADE ME WITHOUT A SOUL! AM I NOT UGLY, MY LORD?
LYGA! IT—IT IS YOU?

BUT I WILL HAVE MY SOUL BACK! AHHH— THERE!
MY RUBY! NO...

MY SOUL BACK AT LAST! AHH— OOOOOO— GAAAAAA—

IT WORKS! I AM WHOLE AGAIN!

YOU SHALL NOT STEAL MY RUBY, LYGA! I'LL KILL YOU! GIVE IT BACK TO ME!
N-NO! PLEASE, MY LORD! DO NOT TAKE MY SOUL AGAIN!

I WANT MY RUBY! THE COLOR OF YOUR BLOOD...
NO... EEEEEEE—

G-GONE! ONLY THE RUBY LEFT! AND IT... IT IS THE COLOR OF BLOOD! ODD I NEVER NOTICED IT BEFORE!

THEN...
AT LAST, SIRE! I HAVE YOU ALONE! NOW YOU DIE!
YOU — WULF! YOU ARE INDEED A FOOL...

YOU THOUGHT TO SLAY ME! HAH — IT SHALL BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND!
UGHHH—

GO NOW AND JOIN THE OTHERS! I WILL LIVE IN PEACE ...WITH MY BEAUTIFUL RUBY...
GAAAAAA—

MY RUBY! TURNING TO BLOOD! HER BLOOD!

AH-HAH-HAH HEEE-EEE AH-HAAAH MMMM...
THEY PUT THE KING IN A TINY CHAMBER RESERVED FOR MADMEN... HIS SCREAMS DROVE EVERYONE AWAY UNTIL AT LAST HE WAS ALONE!
The End

The Beautiful and the Dumb!

ACT IN HASTE— REPENT AT LEISURE!

"FAINT HEART NE'ER WON FAIR LADY!" BUT POOR GEORGE THOUGHT HE COULD OVERCOME ALL OBSTACLES BY SHEER WISHING! MAYBE HE COULD...IF HE KNEW THE DETAILS OF A CERTAIN CONTRACT... THAT WAS ACTUALLY MADE TO BE BROKEN!

MIGNON, GIRL VENTRILOQUIST, IS THE RAGE OF PARIS! ONE NIGHT AT THE THEATRE COMIQUE...

TELL ME, FIFI! DID ANYONE EVER SAY YOU WERE BEAUTIFUL?

WHAT A QUESTION! THEY ALL DO!

HO-HO!

HAH-HAH!

WHILE IN THE AUDIENCE, GEORGES DUFY SEES THE ACT FOR THE TENTH TIME...

AND I LOVE HER DEARLY... BUT FROM SUCH A DISTANCE! I'VE GOT TO MEET HER SOMEHOW...SHE COULDN'T TURN DOWN A SIMPLE INTRODUCTION FROM A FAN!

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE...
WHO KNOWS, BEAUTIFUL ROMANCES HAVE SPRUNG FROM MERE CHANCE... PERHAPS I WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO WIN THE HEART OF THIS LOVELY QUEEN...
STAGE DOOR

I HAVE TOLD YOU BEFORE, M'SIEUR DUFY! MIGNON SEES NO ONE! SHE LEAVES BY A SECRET ENTRANCE!
BUT I MUST SEE HER! I MUST! I'M IN LOVE WITH HER!

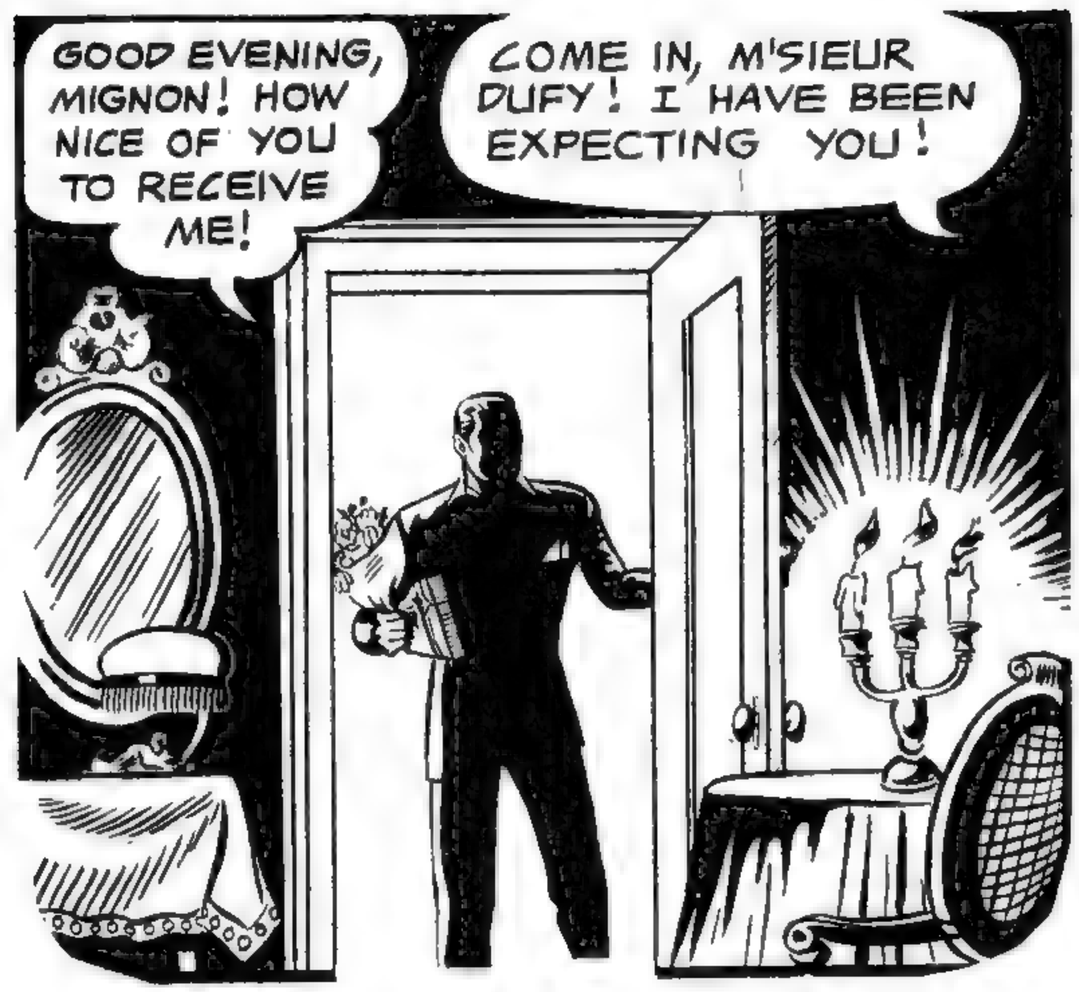
SO AGAIN THE NEXT NIGHT...
EVERY MAN IN PARIS MUST BE IN LOVE WITH HER! BUT YOUR FORTUNE IS IN MY HANDS, PRETTY MIGNON, JUST AS MINE IS IN YOURS! TONIGHT WE SHALL MEET!

SO ONCE MORE...
NOW, M'SIEUR! DID I NOT TELL YOU BEFORE...
WAIT, HENRI! LET US TALK BUSINESS!
STAGE DOOR

AHA, M'SIEUR! THAT IS DIFFERENT!
FIVE THOUSAND FRANCS, HENRI! NOW?
100
Francs

YOU CANNOT SEE MIGNON HERE, M'SIEUR! BUT HER ADDRESS I WILL GIVE YOU! TWO-THIRTY-FOUR RUE MAURICE!
FINE! YOU HAVE SAVED MY LIFE, MY OLD FRIEND!

AN HOUR LATER...
I'M ALMOST TREMBLING... BAH, I'VE GOT TO SHOW HER MY STRENGTH NOT MY WEAKNESS AS A SHY SIXTEEN YEAR OLD BEAU... I'LL JUST TELL HER...SWEEP HER OFF HER FEET... I'LL SAY, "I LOVE YOU, MIGNON!"
KNOCK
ENTRÉ!


GOOD EVENING, MIGNON! HOW NICE OF YOU TO RECEIVE ME!
COME IN, M'SIEUR DUFY! I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!

AT LAST HE COMES FACE TO FACE WITH THE LOVELY MIGNON... BUT...
Y-YOU WERE EXPECTING ME?
ER... I EXPECTED SHE'D BE ALONE!
GOOD EVENING, M'SIEUR!
YES! PLEASE COME IN! OLD HENRI, THE DOORMAN, PHONED ME JUST NOW.

I AM FLATTERED, M'SIEUR! HENRI TELLS ME THAT YOU HAVE WAITED EVERY NIGHT TO SEE ME!

MIGNON, I WISH TO SPEAK TO YOU OF A MOST PRESSING MATTER! SOMETHING OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ME... AND I HOPE TO YOU!
I-I AM GLAD TO KNOW THAT-GEORGES!

BUT THERE IS AN INTRUDING DISADVANTAGE...
I SAID GOOD EVENING, M'SIEUR!
ER... GOOD EVENING! I'VE SEEN YOU IN THE THEATRE, HAVEN'T I? A WONDERFUL PERFORMANCE!
OH, I'M SO GLAD YOU LIKE FIFI!

WELL, WHAT IS IT YOU HAVE TO SPEAK OF? FIFI AND I HAVE NO SECRETS!

AND GEORGES DECIDES TO APPEAL TO THE LADY'S POSSIBLE CURIOSITY...
SURELY YOU MUST WONDER WHY I HAVE INTRUDED ON YOUR PRIVACY THIS WAY, MIGNON? IT IS BECAUSE I AM STRICKEN WITH LOVE FOR YOU!
I? BUT WE ARE STRANGERS!

STRANGERS? NO, INDEED! I'VE ADMIRED YOU FOR WEEKS! NOW I WANT YOU TO KNOW ME...
PLEASE, M'SIEUR! YOU STARTLE ME!

AMBITIOUS GEORGES CAN'T BEAR THE CHANCE OF LOSING HIS GAMBLE...
I HAVE LOVED YOU FOR MONTHS! I BEG YOU TO ACCEPT ME AS YOUR DEAR FRIEND... PERHAPS YOUR FIANCE?

IMPOSSIBLE, M'SIEUR! PERHAPS YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT I AM UNDER A PARTNERSHIP CONTRACT THAT EXCLUDES ROMANCES!
I'LL BUY YOUR CONTRACT!

OUI, M'SIEUR...IMPOSSIBLE! YOU SEE IT IS A LIFE-LONG CONTRACT WITH ME! HOWEVER, THERE ARE CONSIDERATIONS IN ALL CONTRACTS... IF YOU'D CARE TO DISCUSS THEM...

OH, NO, M'SIEUR! YOU WILL BE SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT MIGNON AND FIFI ARE TWIN SISTERS! YOU'RE STARTLED, EH? I AM...ER...MUCH DIFFERENT. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO EARN A LIVING ALONE...THEREFORE WE FORMED A LIFE-LONG PARTNERSHIP.
SPEAK UP! FROM YOUR VERY TONES I BELIEVE YOU ARE TRYING TO TRICK ME! THE CONTRACT CAN BE BROKEN!

YOU ARE RIGHT! FOR EXAMPLE, IF I MARRY FIRST! NOW IF YOU SO EARNESTLY REQUIRE A WIFE, WOULD YOU NOT CONSIDER...

DON'T COME NEAR ME! KEEP YOUR CONTRACT! BOTH OF YOU! I'LL SEARCH FOR A WIFE ELSEWHERE!
BUT M'SIEUR... THERE IS ANOTHER CONSIDERATION...

BAH! LET HIM GO, FIFI — HE IS A MADMAN!
BUT I WANTED TO TELL HIM THE OTHER PART! THAT IF YOU EVER LEARNED TO LOVE HIM, I WOULD RELEASE YOU, FOR YOUR HAPPINESS IS MINE!

AT THE THEATRE COMIQUE...
YOU'LL REGRET THIS, MIGNON! I'LL NEVER GO TO THE THEATRE! NEVER! TURN ME DOWN, WILL YOU!

AND SO IT IS THAT GEORGES FIGURED ONE WAY WHILE LADY LUCK FIGURED ANOTHER...
HMM! FOOLISH MAN! HALF OF PAREE LOVES MIGNON. HIS PRESENCE WILL NEVER BE MISSED... IF HE WAS EVER NOTICED IN THE FIRST PLACE!
The End

Horror Harbor

OUT OF THE SEA THEY CAME, DREADFUL DROWNED THINGS IN SEARCH OF VENGEANCE! MALIGNANT EYES, IN SLIME-COVERED FACES, FOLLOWED EVERY MOVEMENT OF THE NEWCOMERS TO BARTLEY MANOR! AND NEARBY, BROODING IN THE STORM, WERE THE FEARFUL ROCKS KNOWN AS **THE WEIRD WOMEN...**

AS DUSK FALLS, JAMES RANSOME AND HIS BRIDE OF A WEEK ARRIVE IN A VILLAGE ON THE CORNISH COAST...

TOBACCO *Periodicals* RENTING AGENT

THIS MUST BE THE PLACE WHERE I PICK UP THE KEYS, JANE! JUST BE A MINUTE!

GET THE LONDON PAPERS WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, DARLING!

JAMES RANSOME GETS A STRANGE WARNING...

YOU SHOULD KNOW THE STORIES ABOUT BARTLEY MANOR, SIR! THEY AREN'T PRETTY! WEIRD THINGS HAPPEN, I'M TOLD! NOBODY WILL LIVE THERE!

SPLENDID! FINE! I'M DOING A NOVEL ABOUT THE OLD WRECKERS ALONG THIS COAST AND I CAN USE MATERIAL! BUT THANKS FOR THE WARNING!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
WE MADE A GOOD CHOICE, JANE! WE'VE ALREADY BEEN WARNED AGAINST GHOSTS! HAH-HAH!
IT IS SILLY, I SUPPOSE! JUST THE SAME I DON'T—UGHH— LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS OLD HOUSE!

NONSENSE! FOR MY PURPOSE THIS PLACE IS IDEAL! I'LL DO A NOVEL ABOUT THE OLD WRECKERS THAT WILL MAKE THE CRITICS SIT UP!
GIVES ME THE SHIVERS JUST THE SAME! TO THINK—THEY USED TO LURE SHIPS TO THEIR DEATH RIGHT ON THIS SPOT!

SUDDENLY...
HAH-HAH-HO-HO-EEE-
JIM! LISTEN— THAT HORRIBLE LAUGHTER!
GREAT SCOTT! COMING FROM SOMEWHERE IN THIS HOUSE!

JIM FINDS A CANDLE STUB, AND...
SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM BACK HERE—MAYBE IN THE KITCHENS OR SERVANTS' QUARTERS!
OHH—I WISH WE HADN'T COME. I'M FRIGHTENED, JIM!
HAH-HAH-HE HO-HO-
OLD BESS WON'T HURT YE! HAH-HAH! I KNOWED YE WAS COMING ALL THE TIME! COMING TO LIVE IN THIS HOUSE OF MURDER, BE YE? HO-HO— YE'LL BE SORRY! BLOOD BUILT THIS HOUSE AND BLOOD WILL DESTROY IT! HEE-EEE-EEEEE—

A DOOR CREAKS AS IT SLOWLY OPENS...
AN OLD WOMAN!
OH!
HEE-HEE— COME IN, MY DEARS! YOU NEEDN'T BE AFRAID OF OLD BESS!

I'LL LEAVE YE BE NOW! OLD BESS JUST WANTED TO GET WARM! NOW I'LL GO BACK TO THE SEA!
TO THE SEA?
JIM! S-SHE MUST BE INSANE!

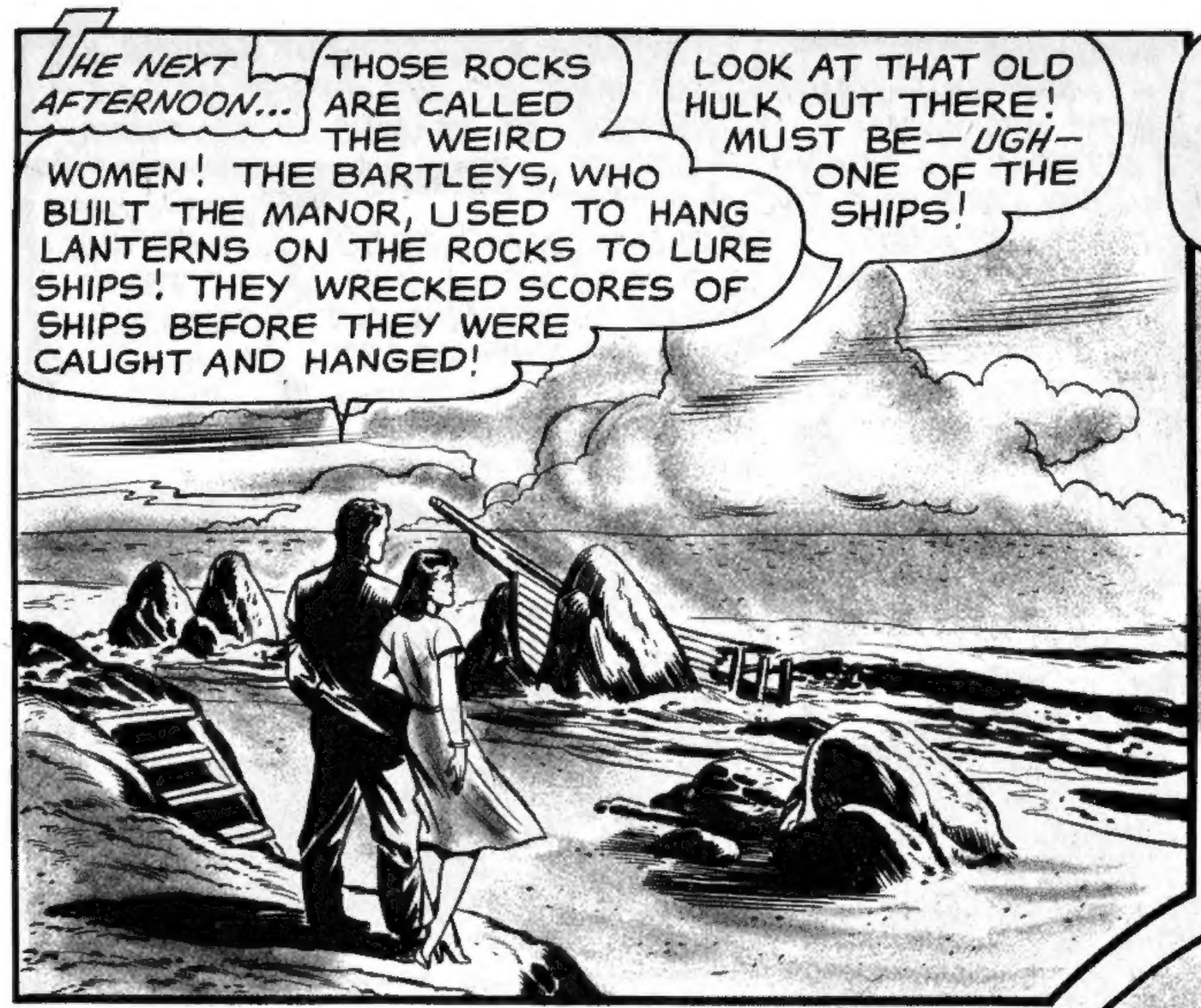
THE OLD CRONE VANISHES LIKE A WRAITH...
GONE! JUST DISAPPEARED! COME ON, JANE, WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT SHE WAS DOING HERE!
M-MUST WE?

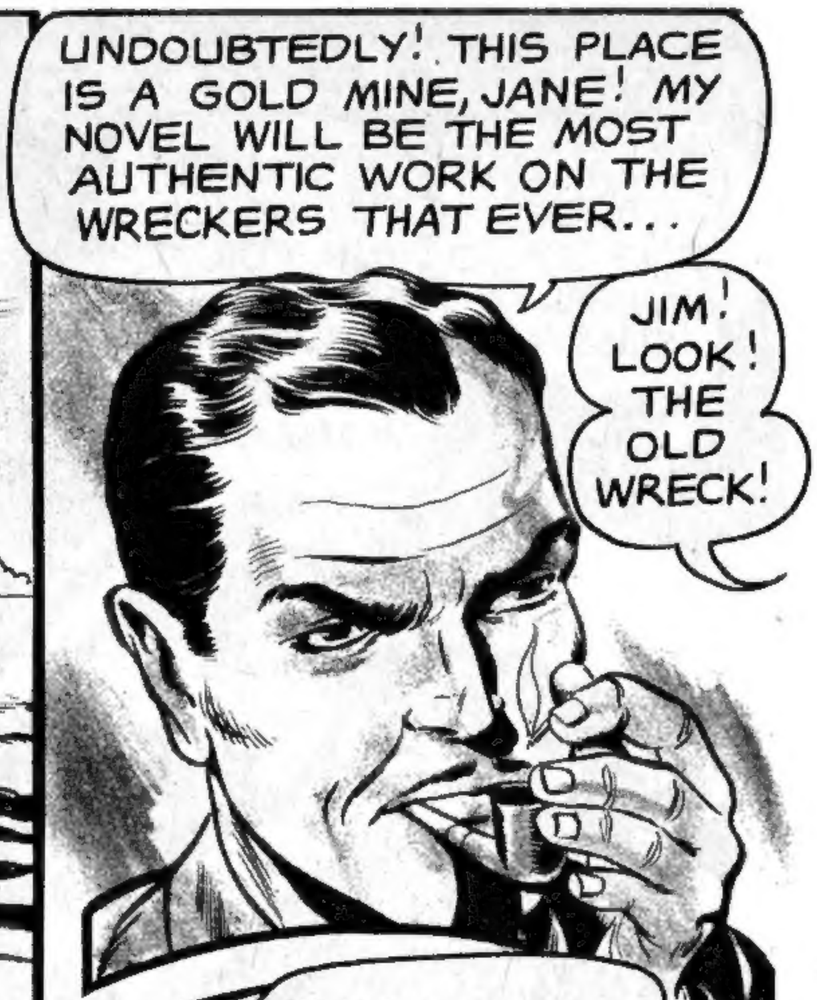
A MOMENT LATER...
THERE SHE IS! RUNNING TOWARD THOSE CLIFFS!
BUT THAT'S DANGEROUS! SHE MIGHT FALL OVER!

SHE DID FALL! RAN RIGHT OVER THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF!
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING, JIM! THOUGH SHE'S PROBABLY DEAD BY NOW! POOR OLD CREATURE!

YOU WERE RIGHT, JANE! MUST BE SOME POOR INSANE WOMAN THAT HAS BEEN LIVING IN THIS OLD HOUSE!
AND WE— WE DROVE HER OUT TO HER DEATH!

BUT...
SHE'S ALIVE! DOWN THERE ON THE BEACH!
YES! MUST HAVE USED THESE OLD STAIRS! UGH— THEY LOOK ROTTEN ENOUGH. BUT LET'S GET BACK TO THE HOUSE.


THE NEXT AFTERNOON...
THOSE ROCKS ARE CALLED THE WEIRD WOMEN! THE BARTLEYS, WHO BUILT THE MANOR, USED TO HANG LANTERNS ON THE ROCKS TO LURE SHIPS! THEY WRECKED SCORES OF SHIPS BEFORE THEY WERE CAUGHT AND HANGED!
LOOK AT THAT OLD HULK OUT THERE! MUST BE—UGH—ONE OF THE SHIPS!


UNDOUBTEDLY! THIS PLACE IS A GOLD MINE, JANE! MY NOVEL WILL BE THE MOST AUTHENTIC WORK ON THE WRECKERS THAT EVER...
JIM! LOOK! THE OLD WRECK!

HO-HO-HO-HAH—HAH—HE—EEE—
GAD! IT'S THAT CRAZY OLD WOMAN AGAIN!
AND SHE'S ON THAT WRECK, JIM! SHE MUST LIVE OUT THERE!

COME, MY DEARS! I KNOW YE WANT TO! COME AND VISIT OLD BESS ON HER SHIP! HAH—HAH—HEE—HEE—OLD BESS REMEMBERS! OLD BESS WAS THE ONLY ONE AS WASN'T DROWNED! COME!

JIM RANSOME FEELS A STRANGE COMPULSION TO TALK TO THE OLD HAG...
I MUST TALK TO HER, JANE! I SIMPLY MUST! THERE'S SOMETHING VERY ODD ABOUT ALL THIS — MAYBE SHE KNOWS SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP ME!
I WON'T STAY HERE ALONE! OH — BE CAREFUL OF THOSE STAIRS!

THEY REACH THE BEACH SAFELY AND...
SHE'S COMING TO MEET US, JIM!
MAYBE SHE'S NOT AS CRAZY AS I THOUGHT! I HOPE SHE CAN ANSWER QUESTIONS INTELLIGENTLY!

WITHOUT WARNING THE SKY DARKENS, AND A STORM BURSTS IN FURY...

H—HOW CAN A STORM COME UP SO QUICKLY, JIM?

STRANGE! BUT WE'LL RUN FOR IT AS SOON AS I HAVE A WORD WITH THIS OLD WOMAN!

HAH—HAH—A LOVELY STORM, MY DEARS! JUST LIKE THE ONE ON THAT NIGHT! THE NIGHT THEY WRECKED US! A TERRIBLE STORM IT WAS...

STRANGE EXCITEMENT MOVES IN THE MIND OF JIM RANSOME! AS A WRITER, HE SENSES A FANTASTIC STORY...

OLD WOMAN! BESS! DO YOU MEAN YOU WERE WRECKED ON THIS COAST?

INCREDIBLE! THE LAST SHIP WAS WRECKED IN 1823! BUT...

AYE—THAT I WAS! ALL OF THEM DROWNED! ALL DEAD—BUT ME!

SUDDENLY, JANE RANSOME SEES — **WHAT?**

JIM—LOOK BEHIND YOU! **EEEEEEEE—**

OH, JIM—JIM! **WHAT ARE THEY?**

THE D—DEAD, I'M AFRAID! COME BACK FROM THE SEA!

HAH—HAH—YER RIGHT, MY DEARS! ALL MY FRIENDS, DROWNED LONG AGO BY THOSE MURDERING WRECKERS! THEY HATE ANYONE WHO IS— **ALIVE!**

RUN FOR IT, JANE! **RUN!**

OHHH—

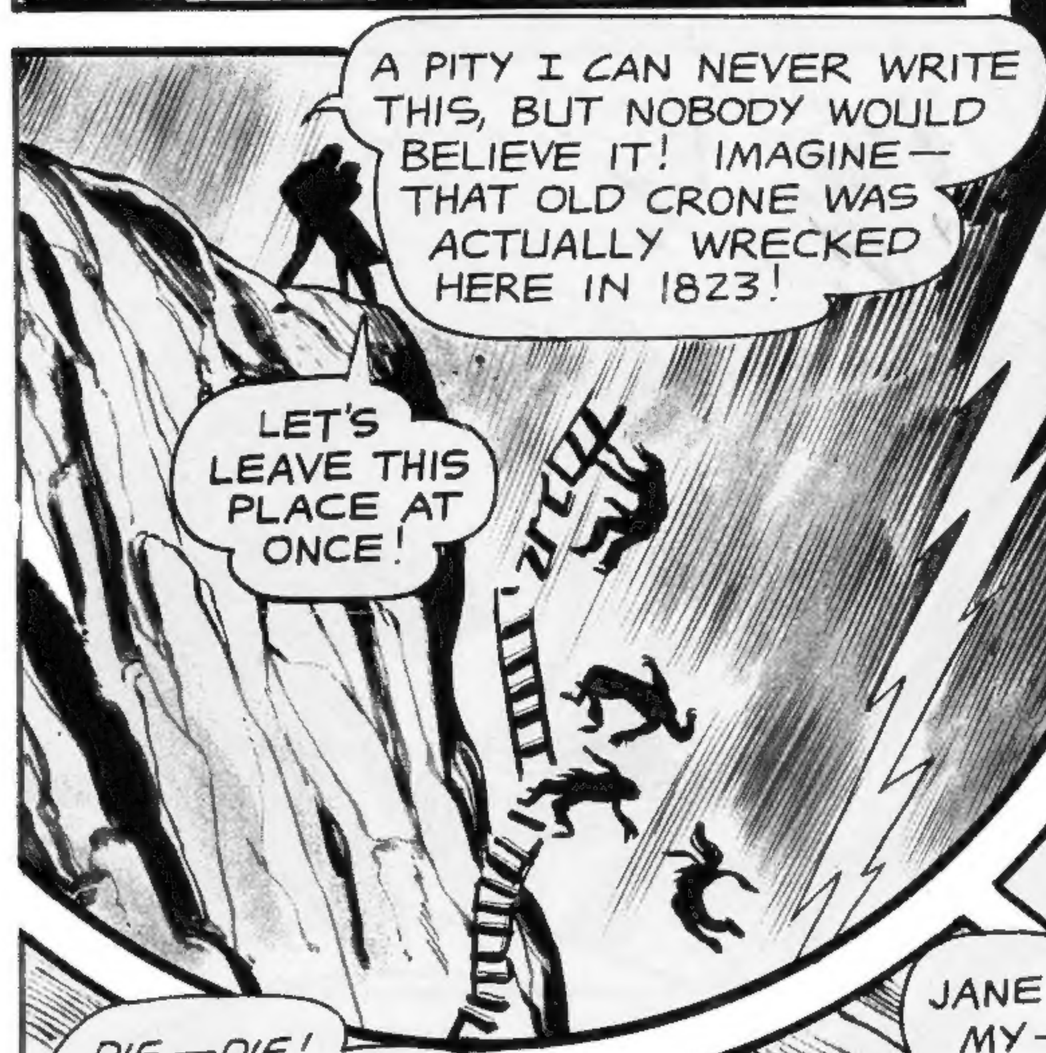
GET THEM, MY OLD FRIENDS! KILL THEM—MAKE THEM LIKE YOU! WHY SHOULD THEY LIVE?

HURRY—HURRY! THEY'LL TEAR US TO PIECES!

OHH—THE STAIRS SWAY SO! IF WE FALL...

AS THEY REACH THE TOP OF THE ROTTING STAIRS...
ONE CHANCE! IF I CAN—(GASP)—LOOSEN THESE OLD STAIRS THEY CAN'T GET TO US!
HURRY—HURRY! THEY'RE ALMOST TO THE TOP!

THERE! JUST IN TIME!
OH, THANK GOODNESS! THOSE HORRIBLE CREATURES!


A PITY I CAN NEVER WRITE THIS, BUT NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE IT! IMAGINE—THAT OLD CRONE WAS ACTUALLY WRECKED HERE IN 1823!
LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE!

JANE RANSOME TURNS THEN—AND SCREAMS...
I—JIM! HELP! SHE'S HERE...
HA—HAH—HAH—HAH—YOU WON'T ESCAPE OLD BESS!
HUH! WHA...

DIE—DIE! EVERYONE MUST BE DEAD BUT ME!
JANE! MY—
EEEEEEE—

YOU MURDERING OLD HAG! I'LL SEND YOU WHERE YOU—(SOB)—BELONG! YOU K-KILLED JANE!
HEE—HEE—WE'LL ALL DIE SOON! OHH—HAH—HAH!

A SLIP OF JIM RANSOME'S FOOT AND HE FOLLOWS HIS WIFE INTO THE ABYSS...

GAAAAAA—

HEE—HEE—WE'LL BOTH BE KILLED! HAH—HAH—HAH!

IT SEEMS TO JIM RANSOME THAT EONS PASS BEFORE HE RECOVERS HIS SENSES. STRANGELY ENOUGH, HE IS ALIVE—OR IS HE?

OHHH—MY HEAD! BUT NO BONES SEEM TO BE BROKEN! AND I CAN'T REMEMBER JUST WHAT HAPPENED, EXCEPT THAT THE OLD CRONE AND I WERE...

DESPERATELY, HE SEARCHES THE LONELY SANDS...

I REMEMBER NOW! JANE FELL! **JANE! WHERE ARE YOU? JANE!**

SUDDENLY, JIM HEARS A SOFT SOUND, A CRY, AND WHEN HE TURNS...

JIM! HERE I AM! I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO ME! I WANTED YOU TO FOLLOW ME!

JANE! YOUR FACE! Y—YOU'RE LIKE **THEM!**

COME TO ME! WE ARE AS THEY ARE NOW! WE WILL LIVE TOGETHER IN THE SEA FOREVER!

NO! KEEP AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE NOT JANE! YOU'RE SOME HORROR FROM THE PIT! STAY AWAY...

JAMES RANSOME STUMBLES, AND IN THE QUIET MIRROR OF THE SEA...

HUH! I—

AAHHHHHHHH—

The End